

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doon** Ref: **717**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **256**
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/06/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	33	37
The Built Environment	50	35	36
Landscaping	50	31	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25	27
Litter Control	50	26	27
Waste Minimisation	20	10	11
Tidiness	30	18	19
Residential Areas	40	30	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	244	256

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator is delighted to welcome Doon to the 2011 TidyTowns competition! According to your entry form, you have 12 members in your TidyTowns group and this is quite a good level of participation. Consider inviting other interested persons to get involved on a project by project basis – particularly on the Spring Clean. This can encourage a flexible approach to TidyTowns, boost participation and increase the number of volunteers. You enjoy good links with links with external organisations such as Limerick County Council and Ballyhoura. This is positive and you are encouraged to maintain and build on these links. It is also noted that you have contacts with Airtricity. It is a good reflection of your efforts that you can attract interest (and hopefully sponsorship) from a large commercial company. You are also commended on your contact with the schools as this is considered to be an excellent means of raising environmental awareness and participation at a local level. Thank you for your entry form and map which were most helpful during adjudication. Your 3 year plan was read with interest.

The Built Environment:

The adjudicator was very impressed by the town of Doon. The centre of the town is very impressive with a very attractive and intact streetscape of what appear to be the original two storey terraced buildings. A number of the commercial premises that caught the eye included; the AIB Building, W. Hayes and the building opposite. Whelan's, Lysaght's and Martin's (which was being painted at the time). A little further down Main Street, Anne's, Johnno's, the Local, Kelly's, the Doon Pharmacy, Hibernian House and Rainsford Grocer were admired while the James Buckley, Pierce's and Patrick Ryan's premises also looked well. The standard of presentation on the Main Street was exceptionally high and it is clear that the residents of Doon are getting behind the tidy towns effort! Other buildings that drew attention were the Church (with its new paint job), the Library, the CBS School and St Fintan's Primary School while the Convent is also a nice complex – despite

the presence of some old buildings in disrepair on its grounds. The Church of Ireland building was also observed. Some untidy sites were seen across from the Convent and bring bank. Are these matters being raised with the Council or owners?

Landscaping:

The Committee have performed quite well in this category for 2011 and there were a number of examples of your good work on adjudication day as planting and landscaping projects were visible all over the town. Highlights for the adjudicator included the raised natural stone bed on the approach from Cappamore which was bright and colourful while the planters and baskets on Kelly's, the Doon Pharmacy and Rainsford's along the Main street made a lovely contribution of summer colours to the centre of the town. The raised bed on the approach from Cappawhite was also observed and the beautifully maintained cemetery was also admired. Some opportunities for planting were also noted, such as the Convent and the sheltered housing near the bring bank. A number of properties in the town also deserve to be commended for the presentation of their grounds. They include the grounds of the Church and the Parochial House, which were landscaped and maintained to a high standard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your project for the wildlife category is the Kilmoylen Bog Walk and this is a lovely amenity to have in the town. Well done on the work completed on the information signage for it for this year – it was very easy to identify on the day. Your work on the seating and the gates is also commended as they represent great additions to this lovely amenity. Some thought should also be given to preparing a wildlife survey of the walk. Perhaps the schools could be involved? This could provide a valuable source of baseline information which could possibly be used for information boards that could be installed along the walk.

Litter Control:

The adjudicator was impressed with the standard of litter control that being achieved in Doon. It is clear to the adjudicator that your approach of litter patrols 3 days of the week and designating areas the other 2 is working well. Make sure to try and involve the schools and Youth Groups in your work if possible. One bag of rubbish was observed at the bottle bank, but otherwise it was quite clean and litter was spotted on the grounds of the CBS - beside the untidy fencing.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on providing the waste minimisation seminar. How many participated and has it changed behaviour? Please let us know for next year. We would be delighted to hear about the results of your waste survey in 2012 so please give us the details next year. Other actions that should be considered by your committee include finding a location for a composting area for green waste and then using the resulting compost in your ongoing landscaping projects. The use of the painted tyres for landscaping in Hill Grove is also a good idea for reusing old products.

Tidiness:

The Committee can also be proud of their efforts in this category in 2011. It was observed on adjudication day that a good deal of effort had been expended on ensuring that Doon had a neat and tidy appearance. This was visible by the lack of weeds, clutter and litter especially on the Main Street. The area around the bring bank was also quite clean and tidy on adjudication day, but the receptacles would benefit from power washing. Other improvements are possible; the signage at the Cappamore approach is in poor condition and the Cappamore sign is pointing the wrong way, while the road and pavement here appear to have been sprayed for weed for weed but are now awaiting a sweep. On this approach (past the Fort), some property boundaries are also untidy looking and the flower beds in the bring centre car park are poorly maintained and weedy. Similarly, the Church car park also needs attention while weeds were spotted at the Grotto. Weeds were also observed at the car park outside the school.

Residential Areas:

The standard of the residential areas in Doon were reasonably good but some improvements have been identified. Hillview is among the best of the estates, with attractive and colourful landscaping (in painted tyres!) and the grassed areas appearing neat and tidy. Coonagh Court is quite nice, but an untidy area to the side detracts a little from the overall effect. The sheltered housing beside the bottle bank would benefit from landscaping. The landscaping of the mound at Assumpta Terrace is highlight and it was most attractive with a diverse range of plants and a very attractive seating area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approaches to Doon were generally good, with tidy and trimmed verges on the Cappamore Road, but the signage was untidy looking. On the Cappawhite road, the verges were also in good condition and landscaping was observed. On the road past the Church, the verges were neat and tidy and the planters added lovely colour creating a good impression for the visitor. The back lanes in the town off the Main Street were mixed with some in poor condition with weed and debris visible.

General Impression:

Doon continues to improve in this competition and we are confident that the Committee will continue to progress in the years ahead. Best of luck for 2012!