

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doon** Ref: **717**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **263**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	37	38
The Built Environment	50	36	38
Landscaping	50	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27	27
Litter Control	50	27	28
Tidiness	30	19	20
Waste Minimisation	20	11	11
Residential Areas	40	30	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	256	263

Overall Development Approach:

Doon is most welcome to the 2012 TidyTowns contest. Many thanks for your completed application form with additional information including your three-year plan. A special word of congratulations on your beautifully drawn map which was clear and simple. This adjudicator wishes all towns could achieve this standard, well done. You continue to have 12 on your committee and engage with a variety of stakeholders. Your communication is varied and targeted. Do indicate how many 'likes' to have on Facebook as this is a great tool for reaching out to younger members of your community. You are entering the final year of your three-year plan. It was read with interest but do try to make clear as to how progress is being made on this front. Your preparations on your next plan will soon be underway. How can you build on the successes achieved to date?

It is great to read of your involvement with local schools. This is essential to the continued vitality of TidyTowns and an integral part of its ethos.

The Built Environment:

Your collaboration with Dulux in 2012 to repaint the community centre is a fantastic initiative and it is noted that you have been busy in other areas also. How do you address the issue of derelict buildings in Doon? This was raised in the 2011 report.

Your efforts to wrest control of the derelict RIC building from the OPW are noted and you are wished every success in this endeavour, do give an update on progress in 2013.

The red-doored, old Forge with Millstone is very attractive. The clean although partly concealed interpretive sign was read with interest.

The Main Street looks very well and well preserved features such as Patrick Ryan's facade and the small mosaic and tiling at D'Arcy's pharmacy add real character. 'Moore's of Doon' is a particular delight and congratulations to the proprietors for the sensitive, yet striking presentation.

AIB holds a prominent position in the town and is duly well presented. The Roman Catholic Church is looking very well decked out with all its bunting.

The newly painted wall of the community centre looks great and the new playground is a fantastic addition. It is a shame that this area is not linked to town with the footpath, does this force people to drive?

Landscaping:

Landscaping along Main Street is muted and perhaps understandable given the limited space available. It is enhanced somewhat by a small number of hanging baskets that added colour. Planting at the post office shows how a little greenery can make a big difference.

A great landscaping feature for Doon is the many lush hedges in and around the town. They are a wonderful asset that lend texture and character to the landscape.

Landscaping at the GAA grounds is impressive and greatly softens the other hard surfaces. Overall it was felt that Doon would benefit from greater emphasis on street landscaping, perhaps by using potted shrubs and small trees for long-term impact.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This category is principally concerned with raising awareness of nature at a local level. Common but important wildlife habitats can be taken for granted and these include hedgerows, old trees, grassy verges and small streams. Your Kilmoylan walk is a perfect way to allow people to appreciate these riches. Do broaden your scope to include the whole town, even people's gardens can be of value to certain species.

You could raise awareness by holding a heritage walk with a local expert. Your proposed flora and fauna survey and interpretive panel would make great inroads into this area.

Do watch out for a stand of Japanese knotweed at the entrance to Doon wastewater treatment plant. This is a highly invasive species and should be treated appropriately. It is also present behind the grotto.

Litter Control:

You clearly are taking a number of initiatives in Doon to prevent the generation of litter and raising awareness through events such as the national spring clean is invaluable. Do your volunteers wear yellow TidyTown vests when out and about? This can be a great way to advertise your work and generate appreciation for the work that you do.

Generally litter control was to a high standard on adjudication day although a lower number of small, fresh items were noted.

Tidiness:

Do be specific when listing actions that have been undertaken by your group. The adjudicator wants to admire work done and give full credit. Localised spraying of weeds may be warranted but avoiding the use of sprays altogether is better for the environment.

The town is generally very tidy and there are no obvious features that detract from this. It is noted that you hope to have overhead wires put underground and no doubt your perseverance will pay off.

Footpaths seem broken in many places while a lack of road markings seems to be leading to parking problems. Parking on footpaths can create difficulties for people with buggies and with mobility problems.

Waste Minimisation:

Ireland generates more waste per person than any other European country! To really tackle this problem we need to think about the type of waste we produce and set about ways to minimise it. For example using less packaging and avoiding food waste, to better shopping and meal planning. We are a good country for

recycling but this is only fourth on the list of priorities under the waste pyramid. The school's green flag is excellent in this regard. How can lessons learnt here be applied across the whole community?

Residential Areas:

The new playground was judged under the built environment category. Assumption Terrace is a beautifully presented row of houses with neat and tidy surrounds. The 'hill' at the entrance is lush and well maintained. The memorial plaque to the 2003 Special Olympics was admired.

The Forts is another nice estate that is well maintained but could be enhanced with some trees or shrubs.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from Cappawhite is very well presented and the well maintained grassy areas and welcome sign create good first impressions from this direction. Some older traffic cones here may serve a purpose but, if not, should be removed.

The old stone wall on the entrance from Cappamore is a great feature.

The lack of a footpath leading from the town to the community centre must surely be a hazard, particularly in winter. On the road out to Oolagh the sign needs replacing while the wall here needs some repair. On the other side of the road the town nameplates look very well with no small dash of colour.

General Impression:

This adjudicator was very impressed with not only the appearance of Doon but also the approach of the community to the competition. You continue to do well in the competition and will no doubt reach greater heights by focusing on key areas. Best of luck and we look forward to your renewed three-year plan in 2013.