

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doon** Ref: **717**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **282**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	39	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	32	33
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>282</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome Dun Bleisce Tidy Towns Association to the 2015 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. Thank you for your entry form which is clearly set out, map and numbered key, letter from the Christian Brothers Primary School and 2014-2016 Tidy Towns Action Plan with its photo of the iconic forge on the cover. Your adjudicator hopes that you will not be offended if reference in this report is made to Doon Tidy Towns rather than your larger title. Your committee of 12 with help from Hillview Grove Residents seems appropriate for a village of your size. Meetings are held every two months except where work issues dictate otherwise. Your support agencies are very relevant to your objectives. The channels of communication which you use are effective. The restructuring of your schools is noted and your engagement with them is to your mutual benefit. Doon Tidy Towns re-entered the competition in 2007 so it is now a veteran of the competition, an experienced veteran judging by the increase in your marks since then. The value of the competition to your village is well set out in your entry form.

### Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Footpaths will be commented on in the Approach Roads category. The enhancement of Buckley's Cross was noted. Work here has the desired effect. The renovation of the old RIC Barracks is a work in progress. Please ensure that it is included in next year's entry form so that it can be adjudicated next year. Your comments on derelict and vacant properties on the main street are noted. Hopefully there will be improvements in due course. The pharmacy looks well in the old bank building. The original night safe is still in place beside the hall door with its name – Munster and Leinster Bank Ltd. The first building that the adjudicator saw on arrival from Oola was Scoil na Tríonóide Naoife (Holy Trinity School). It was stunning. Well done Doon for acquiring such an innovative complex which radiates colour. It is a pity that it is not more easily visible. Undoubtedly the most attractive modern school building that this adjudicator has seen. The GAA pitch is also impressive and has benefited from the infrastructural improvements created for the school. Doon has an interested built environment. By contrast St Fintans CBS school 1874 is closed with weeds all over the grounds. It is an eyesore.

The CBS Primary school beside it is still operating. It is a single storey functional building. The school yard was neat and tidy and the gates were well painted. Sunflowers Montessori Community Pre-school is a fine building. Good stone walls. St Fintans Cemetery is neat and tidy and the walls on the Cappawhite road are ok but the others need painting. Excavation for expansion noted. The old forge is an iconic building which looks well. The plaque is informative. Convents, etc, not accessible. Boundary wall looks well. Lots of vegetation growing on it improves it. Convent Primary School has 1 green flag flying. Plenty of planting – against the wall, in flower beds and in 3 well filled stone troughs at the entrance gate. Patrick Ryans, opposite the school entrance, is well painted. Traditional shop front with 2 hanging baskets. A derelict cottage beside the school entrance is boarded up. Rainsford looks well and the Irish Red Cross and Treacys stand out. St Patricks Church 1847 but must have been rebuilt as it has a modern look now. Lots of planting around it. Attractive lamp standards need to be painted. Small grotto well kept.

Pastoral Centre looks well.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

Well done to Doon Parish for buying the land beside the cemetery which is already being extended. The Red Cross will get a site for a regional HQ and the pre-school and cemetery will share a car park. Buckley's Cross is getting new planting. The replanting locations have been noted, particularly on approach roads. A circular raised stone bed with red and white flowers sits on a large grassed area opposite the GAA. In this bed is a bi-lingual Doon sign which looks well. There is now an unused stone raised bed at a hedge behind the new bed. Grass neatly cut. Close to the village on a footpath is a new square bed with the Doon brand red and white flowers. This bed looks forlorn. Well done on the tree planting in Kilmoylan Bog. Beech seems an odd choice. It is shallow rooting and is among the first to fall in a storm. It won't get much grip in a bog.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

Kilmoylan Bog was visited. It is an excellent local amenity. The 2 information boards are informative. Well done to the TUS operative. There was no litter evident on adjudication day. It is good to read that there are regular charity walks and nature walks and that the primary schools also use it. Doon Tidy Towns is commended for organising a work shop on the various Tidy Towns categories, particularly Wildlife. Having 6 other Tidy Towns groups attending this work shop was a very good initiative. The Limericks Buzzing group are measuring areas to see how good their environment is for their Strawberry Days experiment is ideal for schools. We look forward to learning the outcome of this research. A useful web site is [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie). You can download from it their publication "Conserving Wildlife in Towns and Villages".

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

Convent Primary Schools is working on its 6th green flag. Its theme is Global Citizenship, Litter and Waste and they have conducted a waste audit this year. The school is now growing vegetables and the new secondary school has a poly tunnel in which students grow flowers for Doon Tidy Towns. Well done to all involved. The book rental scheme in schools is also a good initiative. The Cash for Clobber initiative is noted. Buckley's Cross has already been mentioned. Some Tidy Towns groups find this category challenging. A useful website is [www.localprevention.ie/tidy-towns](http://www.localprevention.ie/tidy-towns). It gives examples of projects that Tidy Towns groups used to earn marks in this category.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Doon Tidy Towns participation in Team Limerick Clean Up is commended. This was a very successful event throughout Limerick. Twenty four volunteers and the CBS Primary School collected 40 bags of rubbish. It will be interesting to compare the volume collected this year with that collected next year to determine if the problem is increasing/decreasing. Recycling centre in the bus park – bins and metal containers were clean and the area was tidy. Obsolete fuel pump on footpath should be removed. However this is not as easy as it seems. Under the fuel pump is a fuel tank and it is unknown if any fuel remains in it so that health and safety issues arise. In the centre of Limerick City service boxes at traffic lights, etc. are painted with designs that camouflage them. That treatment could be tried on the fuel pump. Derelict cottage at the junction is well camouflaged. Large flower bed beside it. Black and yellow village pump at the junction looks well. The CE litter picking patrols are effective. There was no litter evident in Doon on adjudication day. Well done to the CE team and to Doon Tidy Towns litter pickers.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

Doon has a variety of residences, individual on approach roads, terraced in the village, housing estates. Fortunately, Doon escaped the blight of unfinished estates. It would be invidious for this adjudicator to select one type over another. However, your entry form tells us that Hillview Grove Residents Association engages with your committee. You also mention that your AGM is open to all. No doubt there is a welcome to all residents in Doon to support you and this adjudicator saw so many signs of the strong community spirit and pride of place that it is clear that all residential areas support you. However, last year's adjudicator left an unspoken (but written) challenge to this adjudicator to climb the "grassy knoll" at Assumpta Terrace. Special photos were taken both of the immaculate presentation of this feature and the houses below. The hill is very well presented – neatly cut grass, shrubs, flowers and lots of trees. Seat clean and well painted. This is a stand out feature in the village. In keeping with the theme of the hill the Assumpta Terrace name is on a rustic wooden sign. The residences are all well presented and reflect the well kept hill. So, too, do the terraced residences in Barrack View. Special mention must be made of Glasha Talainn – the sheltered housing at the back of the bus park. Single storey semi-detached residences, all well presented. Coonagh Court and Hillview Grove also look well. Enhancements noted. The community playground is an excellent amenity which, visually fits in very well with the GAA complex and the community centre.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

Approach roads are important in helping to create the first impression of a town or village. Your entry form tells us that your conventional metal village name signs were stolen. Their replacements are excellent. The new design is more colourful and it differentiates Doon from other villages and towns. They are unique. Well done Doon Tidy Towns. This adjudicator's first introduction to the sign was on the approach from Oola. The brightly coloured red and white sign greets the visitor with "Welcome to Dun Bleisce". The impeccable sign stands in a raised flower bed filled with red and white flowers. The raised bed is also impeccable. The verge is neatly trimmed. New footpaths and road surface further enhance the area. A very good first impression of Doon. Near Buckley's Cross a metal black and white Doon sign stands in a bed of red and white flowers, still guarding the approach. No doubt it will be replaced.

Road surfaces and footpaths have been improved in some part of the village and discussions are continuing with the local authority on traffic flow on the main street. There is a lot happening in Doon.

**Concluding Remarks:**

Again, thank you for your entry in the 2015 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is important to us. We look forward to receiving your entry in the 2016 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition in due course. Thank you in anticipation of it.