

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DOON**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	23
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	173

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

From your highly detailed response to the application form you would appear to have a good working relationship with the appropriate regional statutory bodies. For next year's competition it will be important to have drawn up a detailed professional 3/5 year plan of action for your town in order to give yourselves a clear direction for tackling the problem areas within the community.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There was a wealth of wild flowers to be spotted in the hedgerows both surrounding and within the town itself. The wild roses to the hedgerows opposite the C.B.S. schools and to the road to the Church of Ireland were a positive delight! - this latter also had a profusion of wild daisies and purple scabious. Possibly the best way of approaching this category, would be to get in contact your local environmental groups and experts in order to seek advise on this broad-ranging issue. From there, you can then locate your local wildlife habitats and see what species of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. A good idea would be to involve the local schoolchildren in this program - they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the abundance of wildlife in their local environment.

LANDSCAPING

The discovery of the stream area with steps leading down to it was a welcome surprise as there was no reference to it on the map you submitted with your application! The area looked very well but the grass could be cut back somewhat and some weeds were apparent to the base of the boundary wall. The grotto was neat and fresh if a little bare. Perhaps the concrete could be replaced with gravel or grass to soften the effect. The planting to the car park including the hedge between it and the senior citizen's housing is coming along very nicely. The public space to the front is quite bare as the grass has yet to grow. It looks quite unfinished and weedy. The yew trees to the graveyard at the junction of Main Street look quite majestic. The colourful displays of flowers were in abundance - those hanging baskets and tubs to the school entrance by the telephone boxes and the window boxes with petunias and geraniums to the blue cottage being of particular note. As was the white house opposite Rainsfort's with its hanging baskets and two attractive tubs of geraniums each side of the door. However, the corrugated iron gate should be replaced and the boundary wall plastered and painted.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the public and commercial premises of the town for the most part, looked well on Adjudication Day. The forecourt area to the GAA grounds was quite weedy. Weeds were also apparent to the base of the boundary wall and forecourt area to the Community Centre and sports complex which in itself was well presented. Although the door to the ESB sub-station needed painting, the grounds looked neat as did those to the Health Centre, although its boundary wall was grubby. The church and grounds were well presented with its raised stone bed of marigolds and daisies to the car park area. The Church of Ireland stone spire restoration work was busily in progress on the day. The hedge with stone base as a boundary wall is an attractive feature. Some weeds to were noted to the base of the stone wall to the car park while the ill-fitting gate in the large gap should be replaced with something more permanent. The boundary wall to the CBS schools needed a fresh coat of paint, although that to the National School was very fresh. The tarmacadamed playground area to the former looks very bare and uninviting perhaps some landscaping would soften its appearance. The bare concrete blocks of the bicycle shed could be improved by growing creeper up it. The Convent could be freshened up by next year's competition. Some weeds were apparent at the base of the stone boundary wall, although the purple aubretia climbing on and over it looked quite magnificent. Ryan's Post Office was very "green" (in more than just the environmental sense) with creeper scaling both the front and side elevations. Many of the buildings were very fresh and bright. Of especial mention were Whelan's pub in a strong mustard colour, and Ryan's chemist. There are several fine traditional shopfront and pubfronts in the town including W. Hayes's, Bray's, Lysaght's (which has an attractive plastered front), Moore's and the freshly painted Danagher's.

The A.I.B. looked very well with its railed garden to the front. R. Martin's shop displayed an abundance of colourful hanging baskets. Curved canopies and such as that to Jimmy Ryan's should be removed and replaced with a more traditional awning. Plastic signs such as that to O'Donovan's remove should also be discouraged.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was a problem on the day. There was a minor outbreak on the R507 from the main Limerick/Tipperary road and by the telephone boxes. The wall behind the latter should be painted. There were also a few papers to be seen outside Buckley's. Quite an outbreak was apparent to the road opposite the CBS schools, at the car park and quite a lot along Main Street.

TIDINESS

The boundary walls of the graveyards looked in need of a fresh coat of paint. The view of the tank to the school above/behind the telephone boxes should be disguised in some way as it looks quite unsightly. The children crossing sign at the junction was rather grubby. Weed control was a major problem on the day as mentioned in previous categories. More were apparent to the tarmacaded car park to the graveyard opposite the convent. The pavements throughout the town were in need of some attention. The wall behind telephone box was quite cracked and flaky. The boundary wall to the junction of the Church of Ireland road and the main road appeared to be quite grubby.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses and gardens of the town were presented to a high standard indeed on the day. The ivy-clad cottage beside the Community Centre was greatly admired. As was the attractive garden filled with lupins near the Health Centre. Assumption Terrace with its raised bank entrance area looked magnificent. The boundary wall to the white house opposite needs some attention. The stone entrance area/gateway to what appeared to be into an old estate was sadly very weedy and littered. The beautiful gardens opposite on the Cappamore road were, however greatly admired. The garden opposite the Church of Ireland with the wild flowers cascading to the roadside looked quite breath-taking.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads surrounding and within the town of Doon looked well on the day. The R507 off the main Limerick/Tipperary road looked quite beautiful with wild roses in hedgerows further out the road. The verges were quite well cut back and the retention of the square old fashioned type nameplates is to be commended even though they appeared a little bit on the grubby side. The wild rhododendrons on the very neat Cappamore road were greatly admired as was the aubretia to the stone bed containing the nameplate.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The attractive town of Doon has much to recommend it, and also much to be proud of. The long curved Main Street has a unique character all its own. To judge from your highly detailed response to the questionnaire, there are a great many dedicated people who take an active interest in the town and its future. The best of luck with it. There is some more work to be done but the commitment is there.