

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	24
The Built Environment	40	25	23
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	178	173

Doon, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thanks for your detailed application form which, as in previous years, showed a good co-operative effort from all the community. A three year work plan would be beneficial prior to next year's competition as it would outline short term and long term objectives in a structured manner.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In general, the standard in this category was very good and some negatives that were allude to in last year's report were acted upon. For instance, the GAA Grounds and Community Sports Centre were near to perfection, a tribute to the work of those responsible for their upkeep. Both the RC Church and the Church of Ireland and their respective grounds were in excellent condition. There was work taking place on the shrub beds adjacent to the Catholic Church on adjudication day. The Grotto at the church grounds looked somewhat bare and could do with greenery and colour to soften the look. The Primary, CBS and Convent Schools were well presented. They were recently decorated with clean grounds and surrounding boundary walls and railings. The Graveyard wall could benefit from painting to take away the dreary look. The carpark and newly built stonewalls are a welcome addition to this area. Doon has a nice mix of old and new shopfronts with the minimum of unsightly signs. Most premises are extremely well kept some with flower baskets, shrub beds and climbers. Again there are a few exceptions where a little dereliction has occurred. The committee no doubt are aware of these; this is where a planned work programme would come in useful. The following premises appealed to this adjudicator either because they were good examples of traditional shop fronts or carefully restored modern frontages with appropriate signage; Rainsford's, Patrick Ryan and Lysaght's, both with simple old shopfronts, Bray's, Hibernian House, AIB Bank, Moore's, Treacy's, R Martin's and Whelan's Bar. A second unoccupied shop owned by Treacy's could do with a new image.

LANDSCAPING

The stream area referred to in last year's report was on this occasion rather overgrown which is a great pity as it has an abundance of foliage and could be a very attractive landscape feature. There was plenty evidence of colour in and around the village in the form of hanging baskets, shrub beds and flower tubs. The shrub beds at Assumption Terrace as well as the green area were in tip top condition. The planted area in the car park near the senior citizen houses has matured greatly. There were lovely rose beds in front of the impressive house on the grounds of the Protestant church. Congratulations to all concerned ;keep up the good work and make sure to introduce children to the benefits of such an effort as they will be the Doon adults of the future.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The area around Doon has a wealth of hedgerows, wildflowers and a number of species of trees to make it an ideal habitat for various forms of wildlife birds, animals and insects. It is a little disappointing that there has been no effort on the part of the committee to initiate a project that would involve the children from the schools in the village and such an approach would eventually benefit Doon.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter visible on adjudication day particularly on the main street and around the CBS school. It is important that the committee get to grips with this problem and put in place a mechanism that would make good the situation. I am aware that notices are put in the parish newsletter. For instance, an invitation to residents of the town to partake in a weekly clean up would be worthwhile; maybe local businesses would sponsor refuse bags and litter bins.

TIDINESS

As stated elsewhere, the area near stream was pretty untidy which is a pity as it could be a nice amenity for use by locals and visitors alike. Some of the pavements in the town were unacceptably weedy; this needs to be rectified as it had been referred to in last year's report. There is room for improvement in this category and hopefully importance will be given to tidiness - otherwise it will get worse.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Assumption Terrace was in excellent condition; it is obvious that residents take pride in their place. The gardens of houses on the Cappamore Road were once again splendidly presented with a mixture of annuals, perennials and dwarf shrubs. Opposite the Protestant Church there was a nice garden of wildflowers interspersed with alpines giving a lovely effect.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads to the town from Cappamore, Oola and Doon were presented to a high standard with verges cut and hedgerows trimmed appropriately. The rhododendrons on the Cappamore Road were at their best giving a very inviting impression.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee to involve all sections of the community in the presentation of Doon are to be commended. There is a lot of work to be done but the commitment is evident and the town is benefiting each year. A workplan for a three year period is needed even if only to focus minds on the main tasks ahead.