

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-98

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1998 | Mark Awarded 1997 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 25 | 25 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 25 | 25 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 26 | 24 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 21 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 22 | 21 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 11 | 10 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 21 | 21 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 27 | 26 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 184 | 178 |

Doon, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Doon is very welcome to the 1998 Tidy Towns Competition. The natural rise and fall of the main street together with its twists, turns, crossroads and church square give Doon an interesting streetscape and layout for what is essentially a linear village. Well done on the financial support from the community of bedding plants.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are many attractive traditional and newer buildings in the village. The curtilage area of the site beside the garage adjacent to the carpark is poorly presented and detracts from this end of the village. Buckley's Foodstore and garage looks exceptionally well. Both the Rainsford Grocers and the Moore's of Doon property look well also. The old Tracey's Butchers should be rewhitewashed as an interim measure until redevelopment. Both the Community Centre and the GAA field and boundary wall are presented to the highest standard. The streetscape has potential to be infinitely more appealing. In the shorter term, a co-ordinated colour scheme might be adopted for buildings along the main street and of course in the longer term the ducting of service cables and the featuring of attractive lampstandards will improve the appearance of the heart of Doon.

LANDSCAPING

The wide green verge on the Cappawhite road just before the nameplate has been landscaped but planting here is as yet still immature. Some additional features like seating and / or picnic tables may be appropriate. The grounds of the graveyard looked well, however the boundary walls to both the old and the new graveyard could perhaps be improved with cleaning. The flower displays inside the boundary wall at the old Protestant church were most appealing and these together with the building itself make for a most attractive entrance to Doon. St. Fintans Well is beautifully landscaped and it is good to note that it is also wheelchair accessible. Hopefully the timber palette marking the pedestrian entrance will be removed. Some stretches of footpath in the village centre is sufficiently wide for tree planting, this might be considered. A little landscaping might be considered for the carpark of the GAA grounds also.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps the site adjacent to St. Fintans Well could be developed as a wildlife garden. A survey of the wildlife habitats of the village together with its immediate hinterland might be undertaken with areas mapped out in zones of sensitivity with particular emphasis to areas under threat. While the landscaping of St. Fintans Well is to

be much admired, its wildlife significance is not that obvious or easy to interpret.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good throughout on adjudication day with the exception of the Oola road where a few outbreaks were noted. It was also weak in the hedgerow across from the GAA grounds. Well done to the FAS workers and Tidy Towns Committee.

TIDINESS

The old building adjacent to Rainsford Grocers could be refurbished as it suggests neglect. Don't forget to have building materials removed from the church carpark on completion of work.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The new residential developments at the carpark look well and those near completion look promising. Assumption Terrace makes a very big visual impact to the overall presentation of Doon. A number of boundary walls and railings at the Cappamore end of the village could be improved. Some roadside areas to boundary walls outside the nameplate are also a problem. A co-ordinated colour scheme for Assumption Terrace would add a finishing touch to an otherwise excellent presentation.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The carpark looks well and shrubs and young trees are maturing nicely. No doubt building materials will be removed upon completion of work. Do remove grass cuttings from verges and hedges and ditches after trimming as these are unsightly when they become discoloured. The old kerbstones to the footpath at the old Protestant church look quite interesting and should be retained when this footpath is being refurbished.

Do try to maintain the weatherstained white wall across from the junction at the Cappawhite road freshly painted or whitewashed. The wirescape along the main street looks poor and should be eliminated, no doubt inquiries have been made in this regard. A service pole at the Whelan's junction looks particularly bad when viewed from the church. Some road signs need to be refurbished also, for example the speed limit sign in the church square. The roadside edge along the Oola road needs to be refurbished along some sections. The nameplate on the Oola road could be realigned as it is partially obscured. The village nameplate at the Health Board premises on the Oola road also needs attention. Well done on the refurbishment of the footpaths and stone walls. The entrance to the town near the Church of Ireland property is the most attractive feature of the town with its scenic view of the church.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of the village is most favourable. Do send in details of your planned work programme with next year's application.

