

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doon** Ref: **717**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **289**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	39	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	33	35
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	34
TOTAL MARK	450	282	289

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Doon is welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2016; thank you for your continued participation over many years, it is a pleasure to revisit your village for adjudication. The map of Doon and Tidy Towns Plan included with your entry form together with your covering letter was helpful. The committee of twelve persons have liaised with many diverse groups from whom strong support is received in the management of the village. Links with the local schools are fruitful also and it is good to note the involvement of the GAA.

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

The overhead service cables are visually obtrusive and diminish the visual amenity of Doon's streetscape. A number of plain cement finish buildings could be cleaned if not painted. The Ecclesiastical premises at the top of the road (to be redeveloped by Ballyhoura)? features stretches of boundary wall which could look better. The railings and gates of the primary school are nicely painted. Both the primary school premises and grounds together with the Mean Scoil are being well-managed as is the community preschool "Sunflowers". A large lock up premises on Monastery Road is badly weather stained, congratulations on developments for this road and the old R.I.C. Barracks. Posters and stickers in the window of the Village Store Cafe take away from its otherwise good presentation. Whelan's looks well. The Doon Pharmacy looks well, it is an old and stately building. The Post Office premises looks well also as does Moores public house; Kelly's public house still features inappropriate signage. Rainsford Grocers retains its elegant traditional architectural features, perhaps it's metal gates to the side could also be painted. The Patrick Ryan's premises was especially admired.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Handsome stands of mature trees look stately; some shrubberies appear to need more attention. It is good to note that the 24 trees planted for National Tree Week are native species which will enhance biodiversity. The replanting of beds and baskets together with planting for Spring is favourably acknowledged. Include plants for all seasons in your landscape plan and choose native when possible. Consult the web site universaldesign.ie for guidelines on designing spaces and buildings with universal access.

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

The graveyard is being neatly managed and the mature Yew tree here is a handsome feature. The large car park at the burial grounds could be landscaped. (Monastery Road). The finger post for Kilmoylan bog is helpful and information panels on its attributes and amenities is both helpful and informative and will contribute to a raising of public awareness of Doon's wildlife heritage. If possible monitor the success / contribution of vegetation on your stone

walls under the National Pollinator Plan. Visitors to the bird boxes might also be monitored,

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

Congratulations to the schools for their Green Flag status; the many initiatives in which students and their teachers are involved augers well for Green Living in Doon. If not already done log onto the EPA's new web site livegreen.ie for inspiration, tips and guidelines and don't forget the Tidy Towns Handbook which is an invaluable resource also for competing in this category of the competition. The recycling point enjoys good management. Try to measure results in waste prevention at source and resource (water and energy) management and give feedback where possible to increase community awareness and motivation.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We note Doon's participation in the National Spring Clean and Team Limerick's Clean Up in addition to regular and frequent litter picks which make a significant contribution to the litter free status of the village and helps to raise public awareness. Some litter bins are in need of cleaning. Some litter was noted leading into Coonagh Court residential otherwise this estate is nicely presented too.

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

Some poor looking stretches of wall is a feature of one estate. The Centenary Garden in Assumption Terrace is noted favourably. Hill View Groves is being neatly managed and flower displays here look well. Some on-street housing in the village centre could be improved to the roadside facade. A small residential it is nicely painted and well-managed in all respects (located near the recycling point).

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

Road and footpath surfaces within the village centre look reasonably well although the road had yet to be lined at the time of adjudication. Approach roads and entrances including nameplates and verges feature a good presentation. The entrance to the village from the Cashel road looks remarkably well in presentation of landscaped areas. Weedy curbs heading into the village centre and along curbs leading to Hill View Grove were regrettable.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to adjudicate Doon after an absence of many years and to witness so many developments in visual and recreational amenity.