

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doon** Ref: **717**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **295**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	42
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	35	35
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	34
TOTAL MARK	450	289	295

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Well done to Dún Bleisce TidyTowns Association for preparing and presenting Doon for the SuperValu TidyTowns Competition 2017. Thank you for your completed entry form, your delightful and helpful map, the list of happenings in the village for the past year and your Action Plan for the next couple of years. It is heartening to read that your involvement in this competition has helped in the aesthetic appearance of the village in the last few years, that businesses have come on board and that they now have improved their presentation and that another result of your taking part has been increased pride in the village of Doon. Go maire sibh buan.

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

It is a joy to visit a village whose buildings have not been pillaged by the recent building craze and the recession that followed. Yes some buildings are vacant but some change is inevitable. There are no distracting derelict buildings on the street. In fact the contrary is true as your village retains much of its traditional character. In general shop facades and signage reflect the image you would aspire to for Doon. The odd painted shed is a reminder of trades practised not so long ago. Premises and former premises are painted in colours that lift the spirits. Religious sites and buildings are key elements of the built environment and are beautifully maintained. Great to see the Protestant Church from 1857 stand as proudly as any and being put to use to serve the present population. Community buildings are also well presented as in the schools, the Community Centre, The Health Centre, Doon Pastoral Centre. The style of wall building is a major element of your built heritage. Well done on the painting of the RIC barracks. Fine plaster work and traditional facades inform us of the longevity of this village. The lettering at Lysaghts, Doon Pharmacy, Danaghers all echo of times long gone. Other fronts to impress were Moores for lanterns, Gile na Gile and Rainsford's grocery facade.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Landscaping is a strong suit for the present committee and also for committees from earlier eras. There are lovely sites all about as your work at Buckleys Cross attests to. Strangely you do not mention the elevated landscaped area on your map adjacent to Assumption Terrace. This seems an important site. The area of the Church has been enhanced over the lifetime of many committees with continuous planting. One does not have to visit Kilmoylan to find trees, many mature but many also of more recent vintage. The playground is also a wonderful facility and so colourful. It is always nice to see the village pump honoured. There is need for weeding of the shrubbery in the car park of the Church.

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

While the adjudicator did not take the full walk at Kilmoylan I got a taste that whets the appetite for an opportunity when time is not so pressing. Whatever happens in the maintenance of the lane do not remove the grassy centre which must be home to all sorts of little creatures. Let the horses hooves do the removals when the car is no more. You are complimented on your wildlife surveys but I have to admit that I did not see the information boards. As it is not possible to spend the day here a photo of those boards might help the adjudicator. Well done on the lime trees which, sadly, seem to have been vandalised. I did not see the bird boxes on the walk but I did see them in other locations. Sad to say I think that there is little of forward energy in your 3 Year Plan. What of invasive species? The site behind the RIC Barracks seems to be in trouble. I also spotted an outbreak behind a fence up from the Church. Open space on the Cappawhite Road could be more wildlife friendly with planting of pollinators. Leave more room for a wildlife corridor along the fence.

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

The work on sustainability that is on going in the schools is marvellous and will help to stimulate changes in the lifestyle of all generations in the coming years. A special congratulations to the creativity of the teachers who lead these initiatives. A well done to the students who are acquiring a new philosophy while enjoying the play element of the projects. But one wishes for more from the adult community as in reuse of clothes, recycling of bottles, the use of water butts and reducing the waste of paper in the office, all mentioned by you. Good but what of the home? Have you given any thought to food waste in the home?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The adjudicator is very impressed by the low level of litter throughout. Yes there is some, especially along the approach roads where it seems easier to throw the can out of the window. So Keep Doon Tidy on welcome posts is a reminder. Great that you participate in the National Clean Ups but it is obvious that the work of the CE workers and that of the volunteers is reaping rewards. Your urgings to business owners to paint up is having a noticeable effect. In general buildings are beautifully presented. Paint seems to flow freely as in the red painted Fáilte signs. There are traffic measures that must be effective in calming the traffic through town such as the speed panels, the pedestrian crossings. One felt that greater care could be taken of briar control in places that need to be tidy like at a location near Broderick's Cross. Farm gates, as near the RIC barracks, need renewal. Good to find the Bottle Bank clean.

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

You make no mention of the houses along approach roads in your submission, houses that make the first impression of the upcoming village. At the sight of those houses the visitor is filled with anticipation by the time one reaches the village centre. The house designs, the colours, the front gardens express the pride that the dwellers have in their corner of planet Doon. They are a joy. All estates were visited and all seem to cooperate with their contribution to colour and village character. There are many residences along the street and these too contribute to the modern traditional image of the rural village and to the overall streetscape. I liked the globe on the way to the Fort. Loved the open space and fine trees at Coonagh Court, the raised beds in Hillview and the appearance of the sheltered housing was a charm.

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

I loved the red Dún Bleisce signs and the Gaeilge also. Your name Doon is celebrated with beds of colour so often even on a wall on one road with a little flower bed alongside. Residents are a great help in maintaining and presenting their frontages. There are instances where they might be urged to do a little more especially across the road from their front where weeds might be prevalent. The impression made where the grass margin has been maintained actually spotlights verges that are left grow wild as on the Church road outside the limit.

Concluding Remarks:

You will see from the tone of this report that the adjudicator had a most enjoyable visit to Doon. Your work is obvious. Your contribution to the conditions of living must be appreciated by the community in general.