

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## ***Adjudication Report***

Centre: **Doon**

Ref: **717**

County: **Limerick**

Mark: **300**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **22/06/2018**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	42	42
Streetscape & Public Places	50	42	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	37	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	35	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>300</b>

### **Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:**

Tá fáilte romhat chuig comórtas Náisiúnta nam Baileslachtmhara. Thank you for the filled up entry form and support material, including a lovely map and interesting plan. There is good support for the TidyTowns concept in Doon with the good size of committee plus the huge amount of support for the National Spring Clean Up. It is great to read that "There is strong voluntary commitment locally to our work and it is much supported."

You are fortunate to have the commitment from the Men's Shed, GAA and the Community Council, and they all are obviously pleased with your endeavours that improved your village each year.

Good use is made of the agencies and bodies in Limerick including Ballyhoura Group.

The people of Doon are very well informed of your activities and plans. The Doon CBS Report For TidyTowns is impressive and shows the great work done in this school. It is fantastic to see they have achieved their fifth green flag – congratulations to all concerned. We applaud the making of the Bird Boxes and Bat Boxes. We admire the statement "we learnt lots of cool facts about flowers, trees and insects". I also note that a bug hotel was built in the school. Combining these studies with poetry was an enjoyable side for the children. We thank the school for the lovely photographs that they have shared with us, and those pictures will be greatly appreciated in a few years time when people look back at their school days in Doon.

### **Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:**

The sale of two of the derelict houses is positive and we look forward to these places returning to their former glory. I read in the Limerick Leader that a Men's Shed is being opened in the old convent building which is a huge building and looks to be in good condition. The New School and Catholic Church are splendid buildings. We admired some lovely shop fronts and Moore's Bar looks outstanding and adds a bit of sparkle to the village, but some others are also very well kept notably Rainsfords, Centra, and Buckleys bar but others are just as good. Old Shop fronts make a town unique and each shop front was different in the past. On close inspection you could see some beautifully handcrafted details such as carpentry and mouldings etc. Each old shop front told a story. We admired the old RIC / Garda station; it is nice to see it retain its original identity though now used for a completely different reason. It is good to see the cottage at Buckleys cross improve the aesthetics on the approach road. Now that money is available and with the shortage of houses derelict houses are being bought in many places and it is good to see the progress you are making with them in Doon. St. Fintans cemetery looked very orderly and well kept. The pharmacy (AIB) and post office are attractive. The ivy at the grotto should be carefully taken off before it causes structural damage. The GAA field and large premises are splendid amenities for this locality.

Congratulations on the condition of the forge, and it is a great historical structure. Doon national school is well presented.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasá agus Tírdhreachú:**

We admired lovely flower beds on the approach roads, and the landscaping around the Church is impressive. You could concentrate a bit more on hard planting mainly of trees and shrubs. There are many benefits from trees, some of which are as follows; they filter particles out of the air by trapping them in their leaves and bark, they reduce the noise levels in the area, they change from season to season where in summer they provide height, colour and fragrance, then in winter the bare branches of deciduous trees and the leaf bedecked stems of evergreens ensure that we are looking at a garden border and not looking at a bare patch of ground. Trees provide shelter and food for wildlife mainly birds and they reduce the visual impact of larger buildings in the vicinity. They bring an air of maturity to lawns and gardens.

Trees like everything else need regular monitoring and some older trees can have hidden diseases like for instance mushrooms growing at the base that should be checked. The problem could be Ganoderma notably at the base of mature beech trees, and such trees could have significant heart rot. An infected tree could fall over in stormy weather.

Congratulations for replacing the 3 lime trees on the Togher road. Neat touches of landscaping add sparkle and colour in many areas in Doon. We liked in particular the shrubs in the community centre, notably the creeping shrubs on the walls. On the Togher road we were delighted with the landscaping of the green open space and lovely trees where the signpost for the village is encased with lovely stonework. There are nice strips of grass with some young trees along the road way to the school.

It was unfortunate to find that your lime trees were vandalised, and well done for replacing them. The floral displays in the houses combined with the TidyTowns efforts add extra colour to this lovely village.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

The TidyTowns initiatives bring us in contact with places like Kilmoylan Woods that could be just a forgotten and abandoned place. Instead nowadays we learn so much from such places especially the important role that those places have in our surroundings with the habitats for a variety of wildlife. We are pleased to learn that Kilmoylan Woods is a protected sanctuary. The Bug Hotels are important and play a quiet role by way of shelter for the insects. There are some splendid stone walls that harbour huge amounts of insects for the birds and mammals. We wish you well with the approach to invasive species.

I am pleased to find that you had a visit from Albert Nolan who is a great teacher of all things wildlife.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

The polytunnel grows flowers, fruit and vegetables and these are great ways of cutting back on food waste as we only harvest what is needed per day for the kitchen table. It is pleasing to see that flowers grown in the tunnel are transplanted around the village thus cutting back on the cost of inputs for the committee. Your sensory garden is lovely and great to see the materials being reused. The cycle to school days cuts down on the use of cars on the roads and saves money on running costs. Other notable initiatives are the Book Rental Scheme, Cash For Clobber, Bring Bank Centre and water harvesting. The recycling area is tidy in the small estate across from the graveyard.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhairéacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

I read all the work that is being done to keep Doon a tidy and neat location. The red signage on entering the village creates a pleasant atmosphere and nice to see this continued right through the village. Your locality is all the better for the participation in the national spring clean-up, and we are pleased to learn that the amount of material collected each year continues to decline. We could clearly see that a lot of attention is given to litter picking as the area looked fresh and crisp. You could get advice from the County Council about using an appropriate chemical to keep the weeds at bay on the footpaths. The traditional water pump is a great historical feature and adds to the tidiness of your lovely village. In some areas the concrete block walls were weather stained and you could put some creepers against them such as at the community centre. Litter bins are very well serviced around the village.

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

We congratulate the residents of Hillgrove who are maintaining their estate in an orderly fashion, and we also applaud the residents of Assumption Terrace. There are nicely maintained houses in Main Street, some of which were shops in bygone days. We loved that mural in the playground and well done to all concerned with its presentation. It is delightful to learn that the playground is well used and this gives a good return on its initial cost. The approach roads have nice houses with lots of them maintaining lovely trees, shrubs, flowers and splendid lawns.

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

As already mentioned the signage is excellent. We liked the flower beds and the well-kept grass margins. There is good signage and the pedestrians are well catered for with long stretches of footpaths, but parts of the footpath are worn away. It is positive to see the parish buying the NAMA site and looking after it properly. It is good to see that

you are taking care of the disabled by providing a parking space on the main street. Nice landscaping on all the approach roads gives a nice welcoming feeling.

**Concluding Remarks:**

It is obvious that you all love Doon as you continue to properly maintain it in a loving manner.