

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doonbeg - An Dún Beag** Ref: **67**
County: **Clare** Mark: **341**
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	47	50
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	39	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
TOTAL MARK	550	325	341

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór. Doonbeg is most welcome to the SuperValu 2022 National Tidy Towns Competition, it was a pleasure to visit your lovely village! Thank you for this year's submission with projects appropriately identified and designated on a fine sketch map; thank you also for your Tidy Towns Action Plan, we wish you success in bringing it to fruition. Information panels on local attractions walks and social history are very helpful to the visitor to gain an understanding of the socio-cultural history of the village. Your annual welcome to new residents is an excellent initiative and no doubt it will resume by next year's season. The support received from a variety of bodies is impressive, particularly the Men's Shed, Biodiversity Ireland, Doonbeg Community Development and business interests within the village. Communication channels include print and social media in addition to 'word of mouth' all of which ensures that Tidy Towns news reaches everyone! Engagement with the school this year sounds like a fun event with the children being given pumpkin seeds / plants to grow at home over the summer and have them for Halloween; the involvement of the Men's Shed is a bonus. Congratulations on the success of the polytunnel initiative which has been extended to accommodate increased composting and water harvesting facilities thereby moving Doonbeg further along the path to achieving the goal of sustainable planting.

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

The built environment of Doonbeg looks superb with its beautifully painted premises in strong vibrant colours; the Community Hall was especially admired and the church and grounds look well also. The main problem with the streetscape of Doonbeg is the visual clutter caused by overhead service cables and some very shabby service poles indeed. It is a little unusual to find recent footpath refurbishment with overhead cables still in-situ! Hopefully ducting has been put in place and is ready to accept the cables at a later date. New seating, foot showers and signage recently added to your public places of White Strand and Doughmore beach makes them a more enjoyable and safer experience.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The line of young trees inside the nameplate on the entrance from the Moynasta Road will mature to create an excellent introduction to Doonbeg village. Consideration might be given to planting trees inside the roadside boundary wall of the burial grounds for visual amenity and greater enclosure; native fruit trees may be a good choice for biodiversity. The Fair Green looked really beautiful on adjudication day with its nicely managed green area, flowerbeds and container flower displays together with the wildlife Information panel and walking route panel. Your unsuccessful application for a grant in respect of

the further development of the Fair Green is noted however, your resilience in maintaining it so beautifully is admirable! We wish you success in acquiring funding for the 'Ride on Mower'. It is good to note perennial planting, the Spring bulbs undoubtedly look wonderful and lift the spirits on a cold day. Tree and shrub maintenance at Lake View Park and River Park are favourably acknowledged.

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

Wildflower displays on approach roads to Doonbeg are an attractive feature which is successfully echoed by the wildflower hanging baskets on the bridge; the river banks look wonderful from the bridge which itself is nicely maintained. It is good to note that Doonbeg is a participant in the Clean Coast initiative but not surprising given the high standard of maintenance of the pier and shoreline at the time of our visit. Dunmore cemetery's stonewall enclosure planted behind with flowering shrubs and trees looks really well, its car parking area could be resurfaced. It is good to note that you are actively replacing non native species with native species and monitoring invasive species; well done on attendance at biodiversity training workshops and equipping yourselves with the necessary skills and knowledge. Well done also on eliminating the use of herbicides.

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

Composting, water harvesting, seed harvesting and propagation from cuttings are indeed invaluable tools on Doonbeg's path to sustainable planting! The collection of plastic plant containers for future use and to prevent them from going to landfill is an excellent example of re-use. The village recycling point located within the church grounds enjoys good maintenance and the 'Pumpkin' initiative with the Men's Shed is a good example of up-cycling. Try to offer an energy project for next year or a travel initiative such as car-pooling, walk / cycle to school or a community mini-bus service to expand your activities in this category of the competition and reduce Doonbeg's carbon footprint.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

No litter, graffiti or dumping was noted in Doonbeg during adjudication no doubt due in large measure to regular litter picks by volunteers assigned to particular areas. Appreciation is extended to DCD for their financing of the cost of removing dumped materials. Thanks also to residents and early morning swimmers for their role in maintaining the foreshore area and beaches so clean. Attendance at Litter Management workshops organised by Clare County Council is laudable. Reference has been made above to the visual clutter of overhead service cables and the impact of unsightly service poles and that this is outside the control of the Tidy Towns group other than discussing it with the local engineer.

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

The open plan design of the Churchfield residential estate with gardens and driveways fronting onto the main thoroughfare of Doonbeg was admired for the visual amenity it afforded; cognisance is also taken of their long-term plan here for planting native species of trees. Residential developments in general are well managed with a high standard of maintenance and wildlife areas complement tree planting. The following link leads to an App to download which can be used to measure the outcome of actions for pollinators. Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre (biodiversityireland.ie)

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

The entrance from the Kilrush approach road looked very well with its attractive nameplate and good quality road surface which is well lined; the two other entrances looked well also and reference has been made to the trees planted on the Moynasta Road. Road surfaces within the village centre are good also with clear road markings and car parking spaces. The bicycle repair station and parking facilities are favourably noted. The new footpath stops short of the church on one side of the road; hopefully the pedestrian crossing will become a reality soon. New street furniture at scenic amenity areas was admired. The new mowing regime for verges of approach roads laudable.

Concluding Remarks:

Doonbeg is a very beautiful with a community dedicated to its natural heritage and quality of life.