

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BUNCRANA**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	15
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	172

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Despite last years request for a detailed application and map, none was forthcoming this year. Last years comprehensive report remains true and all that has been said in it should be dealt with first. It is essential that if you are to stay in the competition that you bring forward a comprehensive plan, bring on board the commercial and residential and professional interests in the town, and commit serious time, energy and money to improving the overall quality of your streetscapes and litter control etc.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new category within the Tidy Towns Competition and one in which with the foreshores around the town and some of the urban areas within the town, might be a possibility to garner marks. Call in your local wildlife enthusiast, identify an area that you can develop in an eco - friendly way and have it properly signposted. It would become another attraction to the tourist and local alike.

LANDSCAPING

While some nice shrubs etc. had been noted at areas such as the roundabout on the Letterkenny/Derry approach, at the Fruit of the Loom buildings, in some of the estates within the town etc. no serious or comprehensive planting has been undertaken. With the potential at many junctions and along the main streets for such planting, it is a pity that none has been undertaken. Undoubtedly, an effort is being made at some private areas, such as the Convent of Mercy, at the Railway Road and at the Castle Park Estate. Such individual efforts do not make up a complete picture. Colour and nice planting is a necessity in any well developed townscape and it is to be regarded as essential for Buncrana.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As an attractive, well laid out town and with an excellent harbour and foreshore area, you have the capacity to develop much more impact through your buildings. Unfortunately much of the blight noted in the 1995 report remains. Plastic signage, flyposting etc. remain a major blight and this is to be regretted.

LITTER CONTROL

On the day of adjudication there was a general litter problem throughout the town, both on the approach roads and in the town area itself. With only twenty litter bins supplied by the Urban District Council this may not be surprising. As a busy tourist resort it is essential that locals and the Local Authorities combine to frequently clean up the town area in order to eliminate this problem.

TIDINESS

As can be seen from the foregoing, the overall impact of Buncrana is not that of a tidy town. Tidiness is a combination of street sweeping, litter control, good presentation, landscaping etc. and only when the other elements are right, can you hope to do well within this category.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As noted in previous reports, the Buncrana Residents are clearly proud of their own houses. It is essential that the Urban District Council and the Tidy Towns Committee bring together the spirit of the private residences and take them out onto the street. As was noted previously. houses with immaculate gardens frequently had untidy or neglected roadside kerbs and footpaths outside them, this is the antithesis of everything that the Tidy Towns is about.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads generally were less kept than they might have been, where there was shrubs there might also be grass, where there was roundabouts there might also be litter. Back areas continue to be a problem and of course the harbour area is a mess - broken walls, unkempt grass etc. Again much has to be done if you are going to achieve something here.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Buncrana has to make its mind up. Is it going to be a tidy town and if so how it is going to achieve it. It is essential that you bring on board the commercial and residential interests as already said. Make a plan and have everyone adopt it.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/96)

The general impression created was of a busy popular town, which created a good first impression. However, more attention to detail on the finer points of presentation are required. There was an abundance of advertising hoardings throughout the town, which create a rather cluttered appearance. The unattractive large pylon terminating the axis of main Street adjacent to William Grant's, is unfortunate. Some weeds were noted on the kerbside on the Letterkenny road, to the forecourt area of the tennis courts and also in the planted roundabout. The road to the side of Fruit of the Loom, leading from Mill Brae back to the sea, was rather potholed. There was a general sprinkling of litter throughout the town, which is a problem in a busy seaside town of this nature, but must, nonetheless be addressed. The sea front was well kept although very few litter bins were in evidence for an area which so obviously needs as many as possible. The perspex of the telephone boxes was rather badly stained. Both the business and public buildings of the town generally looked well on the day. West End Amusements needs a fresh coat of paint. The fine old mill/warehouse building on Mill Brae would be well worth the effort of restoration. The colourful floral displays throughout were admired, particularly those to Ubiquitous restaurant and McCallion's.