

Tidy Towns 1996

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DONEGAL**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	30
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	187

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The approach adopted by the Donegal Town Tidy Towns Committee is receiving wide spread support from the community at large, the local authority and other state agencies. The steps which the Committee are taking to solve their problems regarding parking and litter are to be commended. The presence of a fun fair in the parking area behind the Diamond is debatable. Thanks are due to the Committee for returning the completed questionnaire. In future a map would be appreciated.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The estuary at Donegal Town is an ideal area for wildlife. There are a number of hedgerows on the approaches which could provide cover for numerous small birds and animals. A good standby would be to identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area. Advice from local environmental experts should be sought.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping in general is of a high standard in Donegal Town. The presentation of the grounds at Donegal Castle and Church of Ireland is excellent, as is the grass area opposite the Methodist Church. The flowers and treeplanting at the Diamond is outstanding. Compliments are also due to the Abbey Vocational School and the harbour area with its lovely seating, Donegal Abbey and treeplanting. Some litter to be seen here. The hospital grounds and surrounding area are extremely well presented.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Under this heading the Diamond in Donegal Town and its surrounds are excellent. The whole area has a very cosmopolitan ambience, lovely buildings, colourful shops and a fine display of flowers. As last year the Abbey Hotel, the AIB Bank and the Sweater Shop deserve great praise for the continuing floral facade. The completion of the first phase of the work at Donegal Castle is exemplary and this building is a great addition to the town. Many of the buildings mentioned in last year's report are still retaining their high standard notably the Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. The Railway Heritage Centre; Ard Scoil na gCeithre Maistri looked well; however, the remarks in last year's report regarding dereliction still apply. Also the grass needed trimming at the school on adjudication day. Cleary Workshop is beautifully presented as the District Hospital and the two schools on the Letterkenny approach. Traditional shop fronts abound in the Diamond and are a credit to all concerned.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is very noticeable on the approaches; however, the town apart from some residual litter here and there was relatively free from litter. The litter bins are prominently displayed and there are plenty of them. The Chamber of Commerce Anti- Litter signs are obviously having an effect. The appointment of a litter warden is to be welcomed. A good effort this year under this heading.

TIDINESS

The overall impression created by Donegal is of a neat, progressive, bright and cheerful town which takes great pride in its appearance and its appeal. The town is very well presented, floral displays, lovely buildings and very clean.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential areas are extremely well presented. Many of the houses in the estates were extremely well presented with attractive gardens and brightly painted houses. Some of the open green areas need attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads in general were well presented, apart from the litter which was clearly visible. The derelict buildings near the Northern Garage still need attention. The remarks regarding the Ballyshannon approaches last year was helped by the appearance of the Abbott Factory, Donegal Craft Village and as already mentioned the Abbey Vocational School. The GAA grounds on the Killybegs approach has a well maintained and brightly painted entrance; however, as last year, the blue and white barrels are in need of repair. The library building looked well. The corrugated building opposite is still there! The abandoned cars appear to be gone from the Iveco Centre (well done!). The back streets and roads from the Diamond are well presented as is the car park at the rear of the Main Street/Diamond. Last year's remarks still apply. Well done!

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicator was very impressed with Donegal Town. Keep up this momentum. A town with a bright future in the Tidy Towns Competition!