

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FINTOWN**  
County : **DONEGAL**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	16
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	32
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20
General Impression	10	4
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>156</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The re-entry of Fintown into the National Tidy Towns Competition is most welcome. In general the village is poorly presented and your efforts this year are limited and do not create impact. The need for a 3 - 5 year programme is very obvious and should be taken on board as a matter of urgency. In this regard you should talk to your Local Authority and Regional Tourism Organisation - both organisations will offer advice and guidance. Fintown has a very picturesque location - the railway project is developing nicely and will attract many visitors to the village, however, the village is unappealing from an environmental perspective and is in urgent need of a renewal programme. Community involvement at all levels is very necessary to achieve progress - the adjudicator is confident this can be achieved - the Railway Project is a success in this regard.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Under this heading you have an excellent opportunity to exploit the full potential of the lake, nature walks etc. Parking areas, picnic tables, viewing points etc. at suitable locations should be encouraged. The existing lay bys are in a state of neglect - broken fencing and untidy areas are an unwelcoming feature. Signposting also needs attention - in this regard give priority to amenities, wildlife habitats an historical aspects etc. The design and colour code for all signposting should be in line with Department of the Environment requirements. Footpaths are non-existent and should have a priority rating in your development programme.

### LANDSCAPING

The planting of trees, shrubs and flower beds for year round effect will enhance the presentation of the village. Open spaces, lay bys and grass margins are also in need of attention. Promote the greater use of flower tubs, window boxes and hanging baskets. In general a lot of work is required under this heading.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Central Store, Finians Rainbow, Church and grounds looked well. The school grounds looked untidy with overgrown grass. The new cottages looked well and are presented nicely - more planting in this area is recommended. Some commercial buildings would look better if freshly painted. A disused shed near the entrance to the Railway Visitor Centre should be removed as it is in a serious state of neglect. The Railway Project is of great historical interest and is still developing - hopefully the promoters will give consideration to a high level of environmental presentation in the areas of access and car parking. A co-ordinated approach to the presentation of business premises to include colour schemes, boundary areas, flower tubs, window boxes is also recommended. Good and colourful presentation will create impact.

### LITTER CONTROL

Despite the absence of litter bins, litter control was very good. Do continue to encourage the support of school children - they are the future members of the Tidy Towns Committee. Sponsorship of bins is something you should investigate. Good quality litter bins will enhance the presentation of street furniture. Incidental litter in the area of the car park was noted.

### TIDINESS

You have many problems under this heading which can easily be identified i.e. untrimmed verges, untidy car park, open spaces, broken fencing and forecourt areas. Some buildings also need attention. Control of weed growth is also a requirement under this heading and signposting as mentioned earlier should be replaced and re-painted where necessary.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general residential properties were presented well - the new cottage development also looked well and some landscaping in this area will enhance the presentation further. Some improvements to frontages, boundary walls/fences is suggested.

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

This is a most important element of the competition and in the case of Fintown, major improvements are necessary. All approaches need up-grading - untrimmed verges, broken fencing, poor boundary areas and open spaces were all of concern to the adjudicator. The car park, which was very much in use on the day of the adjudication, is shabby in appearance and needs up-grading - repair fencing, install picnic tables, litter bins etc.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

The efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee to involve all sections of the community is very necessary if you are to achieve progress. Before next year's campaign introduce a 3 -5 year work programme and set up sub committees to implement some of the recommendations in the programme. Early discussions with your local authority will also benefit your efforts. It is appreciated that many of the problems outlined in this report are outside your control. However, the Tidy Towns Committee must try and influence the attitude of those who are not co-operating. Wishing you every success in your effort to enhance the overall presentation of Baile na Finne.