

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GLENTIES**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24
Landscaping	40	32
The Built Environment	40	29
Litter Control	40	29
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	227

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the excellent application and the clear indication of the work undertaken during the year. Your map and detailed development was first class and a great help to your adjudicator. Congratulations also on the brochure, it is tremendous to see a Tidy Towns success being used as a selling point for an area. Clearly with the support from your community and commercial interests the further fine tuning of your success to date in the tidy Towns Competition is very achievable. The challenge of continuing to reap rewards is daunting of course, especially when you are setting the standard to compete against!

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This new category within the Tidy Towns Competition is particularly suitable for such a sylvan setting as Glenties has. It was heartening therefore to see the many excellent signposted walks within the area. As a further development of this you might consider ecological, geological and wildlife information posted signs being placed on the Alton Road. This circuitous route out and back into the village is an ideal opportunity to garner extra marks within the competition. One word of warning... do not confuse in fill sites with wildlife meadows! There is quite a distinction. You might consider asking some of the schools to take on this wildlife signposting project as an extension of your Tidy Towns activity.

LANDSCAPING

As in previous years the quality of landscaping within the residential estates was first class and you are to be congratulated on this also noted were the park and the grotto areas. Your adjudicator was disappointed at the poor presentation in the area of the commemorative plaque. It cried out for more presentation and surely an award such as this deserves it! Also the cemetery area on the Glen Road was very badly presented and your adjudicator was surprised at this. Overall, despite the foregoing comments, your adjudicator felt that the WOW! factor was missing on the day of adjudication and that more impact needed to be made with colour and planting in view of your high success rate to date in the competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As has been noted in previous adjudications the main street public and commercial buildings are very well presented. The nice plaster work and fenestration together with the mix of two and three storey buildings makes for a lovely streetscape. Your commercial interests response to this in terms of plastic signs and signs at right angles to the buildings is exemplary and you are to be congratulated on it. Also noted were the schools and extension to the national school and the integration between the new building and the old, well done on this, it is a terrible pity that that ghastly chainlink fence cuts through the middle of what should be a beautiful public campus, can it be removed? A number of other public buildings were noted, notably the Fire Station, the public toilets and the Limelight Nightclub which is to be congratulated on its restrained approach. On the down side, the steps and walls leading up to the rock could have been better presented and perhaps painted. Also the running track was very neglected-looking and is becoming quite an eyesore.

LITTER CONTROL

On the morning following what was certainly a disco night the main street and public areas of the town were in tip top condition - congratulations on this. Some small amount of litter was noted however, mostly of the take - away variety, on each of the approach roads. The main street itself was very good and it was heartening to see shopkeepers out sweeping during our early morning adjudication. A small amount of litter was also noted at the Ard Magill Estate.

TIDINESS

There is a certain distinction between litter and tidiness. While, as already reported, no litter was present the footpaths needed a good sweeping. The under areas to the basements of some of the houses on the main street were slightly untidy. On the other hand the back entrances along the main street were in excellent condition and the river was lovely and clean during the course of this adjudication.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The overall impact of the residential areas of the town is first class, the combination of stone walls, good landscaping in the housing estate and the excellent private houses all combine to amply voice the residents pride in the place they live in - congratulations on this. A number of very nice private houses were noted, notably on the Narin Road and there was a wonderful combination of flowers, vegetables and ornamental cabbages in a garden on the Tullard Road - congratulations. The B & Bs within the town are to be congratulated, both on their restrained signposting and on their lovely gardens, notably Claradon, Corban, and Analann House. A newly developed two storey house on the Meenahalla Road is a textbook example of vernacular style ideally suited to the landscape. One or two questions remain, is the railing necessary in Ard Magill around the green area and could Father McElwee Terrace be brightly painted to highlight its prominence as one arrives into town?

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads to the town were generally well presented as has been noted in previous years. Glenties certainly appears as an oasis in the middle of the mountains and a general sense of arrival is well achieved. A number of points remain however, the Glenties sign on the Narin Road was back-to-front on the morning of adjudication and an unsightly red corrugated shed and a derelict facade close to the railway house on the Letterkenny Road marred that side of town. Overall however the approach roads combined with the tidy side streets and back entrances already noted are quite an achievement. Church Road, as you rightly point out in your development plan, leaves a lot to be desired. A combination of indifferent housing, industrial sites, infill sites and industrial dumping combine to make this quite a challenge for you. It must be successful if you are going to continue scoring high in the competition.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Glenties is a dynamic community dedicated to the Tidy Towns and to pride in its own place. Given your success in 1995, the challenge has only doubled and the incisive remarks within this report are intended to help rather than dismay you. They will however have to be addressed if you are to remain in the top league of Tidy Towns winners. Good luck in 1997 and we look forward to seeing you again.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/96)

Glenties was well presented on a sunny August day and created an overall favourable impression of freshness and neatness. However, some finer points of presentation needed to be addressed. Signage throughout the town could have been presented to a higher standard. The "Glenties" sign on the Ardara road was quite grubby, that to Station road extremely so, and that to the Naran road could be freshened up. Advertising signage along the approach roads create a very cluttered appearance. Litter control along Main Street was good on the day and the town was litter free apart from a single can on the Naran road and a small amount in the park area adjacent to the school. As mentioned in the first adjudication, a few messy yard areas could be screened from public view, the running track was very overgrown and the handrail, steps and side wall leading to the Rock could be freshly painted, although the flowerpots on the steps are an attractive touch. Pavements throughout the town were in a bad state of repair. Both public and commercial premises throughout were well presented although one or two could be freshened up, including Campbell's Auctioneers (in its prominent location at the bend of Main Street), the Highland Hotel and Brennan's. Landscaping throughout the town; both public and private, looked truly magnificent, especially that to the attractive modern church. However, the tall entrance gates to the latter are in need of some attention as they appeared quite rusty and flaky both front and back.