

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **LETTERKENNY**  
County : **DONEGAL**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	32
The Built Environment	40	31
Litter Control	40	33
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>220</b>

## **Adjudicator's Comments**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The comprehensive documentation outlining the work programme of the Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee made it easy for this adjudicator to understand the excellent relationship between the Local Authority, Residents Groups, Commercial interests and the Local Community. Letterkenny is making great progress. Further improvements were noted this year and attention to the control of litter is to be commended. Thanks are due to the committee for returning the completed questionnaire, documentation and the excellent map which weremost helpful.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

It is noted that the Golf Club already has a bird sanctuary. The new Linzer park, the proposed new town park and the river will also be of interest to those members of the Tidy Towns Committee who are interested in wildlife. A river walk should be investigated to highlight area of interest under this heading.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping in Letterkenny is extremely high. The roundabout, the estates, Linzer Park, the Kilmacrennan approach road, Gortilee and the Pearse Road are all good examples. The Welcome/Slan flower bed at the Dry Arch Roundabout with its nice stonework is excellent. It is a welcoming introduction to Letterkenny. Hanging baskets, window boxes, flower tubs throughout the town give Letterkenny a very colourful appearance. The floral decoration on lamp standards is very attractive. It is noted that your landscaping programme is ongoing and the contribution of FAS and the Local Authority in this regard is significant. Lovely display of flowers at Ard ODonnell. The overall presentation under this heading is outstanding. In general the landscaping carried out to date in this Cathedral town is eye-catching and most colourful. Congratulations.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The remarks contained in last year's report still apply. The new apartment block on the Library/Arts Centre enhance further the streetscape of Letterkenny. They are extremely well presented. All public buildings looked well. The Letterkenny Leisure Centre, Courthouse, Social Welfare Office, Churches, in particular the Church of the Irish Martyrs with its lovely stone walls, planting and green areas. The Hospitals are well maintained and the new ambulance park at the general Hospital was an improvement. However the boundary walls opposite are poorly presented with grass and weeds prominent. Shop fronts in general add greatly to the Tidy Towns effort under this heading. It is very obvious that the Commercial sector are committed to the Tidy Towns effort (well done). The derelict house near the hospital roundabout was most unsightly. Once again your Cleaner Community Campaign continues to benefit your efforts under this heading.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was excellent. However some litter was noted in the vicinity of the Cathedral car park and Ramelton Road. The litter bins are well located throughout the town. The litter cart obviously a great help. The art competition sponsored by the U.D.C. involving the schools was very successful and the drawings were used to great effect in screening untidy sights. Well done. Letterkenny is a large town and a shining example of what can be done to eliminate litter with the support of the Community and the Local Authority.

### **TIDINESS**

The overall appearance of Letterkenny was one of a busy, bustling town, with numerous floral displays and treeplanting, and a bright and cheerful ambience. The recycling bins are located in the Letterkenny Shopping Centre. The grounds have certainly been upgraded this year and they surely must be one of

the best presented surrounds of any shopping centre in the country. The area around Century Hill beside the girls school including the Mart is poorly presented. The Market Square is most attractive as are many of the buildings in this area. Broken trees noticed on the high road near the pharmacy. The tree planting in the town centre is commendable. Cathedral Square is a bit of a contrast (as you are aware). Some litter was evident outside the V.E.C. office and the Caravans (which are rather unsightly). The Marian Shrine near the Garda Station is a quiet oasis amidst the hustle and bustle of busy streets. Incidentally, grass was growing on the footpath at the Garda Station.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are now apparently 36 residents associations, most of whom are fully committed to improving the image of Letterkenny and helping the Tidy Towns Committee to increase its standing in the National Competition. The Tidy Estates Competition organised by the U.D.C. is already very successful and keenly contested. In the old town, Owen McNeilly Villas needs more uniformity in its presentation. Fr. McLoone Terrace is most attractive with its colourful houses and gardens. Most of the estates however are extremely well presented with floral display and treeplanting and hedges. Some nice new planting matured at Thorn Road. The estate in the vicinity of the hospital was also well presented. The terrace of houses at Rosemount and Ballynacool have a gorgeous display of hanging baskets, wooden boxes and flower tubs which are a credit to all concerned. The green at Wolfe Tone Place is still beautiful. Linzer Park at Ballyrain estate is striking. However there is a very poor road surface in the Ballyrain estate. Overall a good performance under this heading.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Derry approach is eye-catching from the Dry Arch Roundabout with its magnificent floral display to the nice treeplanting as you get nearer town. The proliferation of signs here should be discouraged. A boarded up bungalow and a derelict caravan were noticed. Hoarding was rather obtrusive and the large Mount Errigal sign should be repaired. The Linzer Park enhances the approach from Ramelton and the new fence at TRIO FOODS is also worthy of comment as is the entrance to the Ballyrain Estate. There is some poor fencing on this approach and an untidy gutter at the Mount Errigal Hotel. It was good to see the work is ongoing on the Kilmacrennan approach. It should be a great help to this approach as will the proposed new town park. De Valera Roundabout is extremely well presented, nice treeplanting. Great work has been done on the new circular road near Glencar Park. The Shell Garage and Centra Shop looked particularly well. The Glenties approach in spite of the repairs which have been carried out (well done) and the painting of the G.A.A. Park is marred by the appearance of Charles Kellys Sheds and poor fencing. Some flyposting was also noticeable. The landscaping and planting in the vicinity of Dunnes Stores is a credit. The development at Pearse Road and Canal Street junction (already mentioned) is lovely. Freshly painted railings and a sign at Bonnars help this approach.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

It was a real pleasure to judge Letterkenny. The Tidy Towns Committee, the Community, Commercial interest and state agencies can be proud of Letterkennys presentation. A magnificent team effort. Major honour cannot be far away.

#### SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/96)

The county town of Letterkenny was positively alive on a sunny August Second Adjudication Day. There was an abundance of colourful bunting to celebrate the Letterkenny Festival, and the circus was in town! The Market Square area and Upper Main Street, as it slopes down from it towards a magnificent view of the patchwork of fields and the hills of Donegal looked magnificent. Indeed, the town looked extremely colourful due to a copious amount of hanging baskets on the lamp standards and lucious landscaping throughout the town, particularly at the numerous roundabouts. Little litter was in evidence considering the size of the town. However, there are some issues which have to be addressed. Some inappropriate plastic signage is still in evidence. The Dunfanaghy road has an abundance of signs advertising B&Bs and quite a lot of flyposting, which give an untidy cluttered impression. As do the numerous advertising

hoardings which were in evidence to gable walls throughout the town and along the approach roads. The forecourt areas to the numerous car showrooms along Pearse Road looked quite bare and some thought should be given to landscaping.