

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	15	12
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	173	168

Buncrana, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Buncrana Tidy Towns Three Year Plan is a very welcome document. The many interesting proposals noted in it will be eagerly awaited as each one comes into force in its designated year. It is seen that 1999 has been set aside largely for organisation and education, and this is also welcomed. An increase in operational activity will be expected next year, and, all going well, there should be a parallel increase in marking. When sending in your map in future, please be sure to mark and name the sites where improvements have taken place. The Ordnance Survey map, provided this year, is not adequate in this respect - for example, some recent developments are not even shown: this could hinder judging considerably.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As mentioned before, the churches and principal public buildings, including modern factory buildings, are maintained to a high standard. A large-scale addition - a Community Hall perhaps? - to the Presbyterian Church was very favourably noted, in a contemporary design which nonetheless complements the existing church. (This is not mentioned in your Development Plan, or on your entry form for this year, but certainly merits an increase in marking). The fine Library is in need of attention, as is the very handsome old mill. Business premises suggested for consideration under the awards scheme were photographed, along with some additional shopfronts which the adjudicator admired.

LANDSCAPING

It is very encouraging to note that you will gradually replace seasonal bedding with planting which will provide a feature and colour throughout the year. (Obviously you will not completely ignore annuals, which have their place). As was the case last year, planting at the chief roundabout and at other salient points, is most attractive. Young trees were noted in an un-named estate near the same roundabout - if these are this year's planting, congratulations. The marine gardens are well looked after. The Swan Park scheme is eagerly awaited.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Not very much seems to have been achieved since last year. In order to allow the Development Plan to get going, marks will not be subtracted.

LITTER CONTROL

Again this year, control was reasonably good. The only place where there was very obvious disposable litter was in the car park behind the Library and at a junction at Marian Park.

TIDINESS

While the town centre is relatively tidy and the established suburbs very tidy, there are too many areas which are very untidy indeed. These were listed by last year's adjudicator. Unfortunately the situation is still the same, and this results in the low mark.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The legacy of Victorian and Edwardian housing is very strong in Buncrana and the people who live in these well-planned suburbs tend their property very well. More recent suburbs, such as Marian park/St. Oliver's Avenue/Knockalla Drive/Lisowen Green etc. would be improved by better attention to boundary walls, hedges and fences, and by more generous municipal planting, especially of trees; as it is, these estates looked quite well on adjudication day, but one feels they could be a lot better without huge expense but with proper care. Tubs of flowers were doing well in some of these estates. There are some promising even newer estates off the Dunree, Carndonagh, Muff and Fahan roads but few of them are named.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces and paving are very good, except in a minority of areas north and north-east of the town centre. A completely new pavement, not mentioned in the documentation, was favourably noted on the hill which runs down from Upper Main Street to Marian Park. Street furniture is of high quality, but many streets and estates lack name plates.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A town both lively and dignified, it is hoped that the initiatives listed in the new Development Plan will give the people of Buncrana and visitors to the town, the improved environment which they deserve.