

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	21	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	171	166

Carndonagh, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The practical assistance reported on your entry form is most impressive: this kind of local co-operation is very valuable indeed. It is good to see projects outlined in the 5-year Plan progressing. The fact is, Carndonagh has improved conspicuously over the last few years. (This adjudicator 'passes through' the town quite frequently, but only in very recent times has noticed that it is somewhere worth stopping in). Your map is helpful and very readable. Next year, please mark and name on it all sites where improvements have been made in the past twelve months (e.g. 'new wall', 'new shopfront') - it is unlikely that we will miss anything, but one wants to be sure.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The two buildings of architectural interest, the churches, are exceptionally well maintained as usual. The protective canopy on the Donagh Cross is an attractive and worthy addition to the townscape. The hospital and the schools - with the exception of the old national school on the Derry road - are well kept. Among several excellent business premises in the town centre, the Bank of Ireland, Trawbrega Bay House, the Shoe and Sports Store, the Glen Bar and the Persian Bar appealed particularly. The new Council offices look promising and will be assessed next year. Less admirable is the blue factory premises on the Malin road which is all too prominent.

LANDSCAPING

As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, the landscaping in the Diamond is most attractive. Grounds of the chief public buildings are unusually well planted. The young trees at the RC/Church are splendid - if these have been planted since last year's competition, congratulations. Floral displays on public and private premises and housing, add significant touches of colour and interest. The new estate on the Derry road remains an obvious site for imaginative planting.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Not a great deal seems to have been achieved under this heading this year, though it is seen from last years report that plans are under way. They are interesting suggestions in the Tidy Towns booklet. The riverside walk is an important feature, and in the long term it might be extended.

LITTER CONTROL

Control was reasonably effective on adjudication day. Two spots where significant disposable litter was noted were in the side road near the G&S supermarket and near the Girls Primary school.

TIDINESS

Carndonagh gives a good impression of tidiness. Unfortunately there are still some obvious black spots which hardly need pointing out - the neighbourhood of the Co-Op, an open site on Bridge Street, a site next to Irishowen Oil Company and the old National School already mentioned, which catch the eye. Kerbside weed was virtually absent and flyposting was not seen.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Street and terrace houses are very well looked after; these, like the central business premises, are what give character to the townscape. Many suburban homes with pleasant gardens were noted. Ard Colgan is a well kept crescent - some of the trees urgently need support here; when lawns are mown, the hay should be removed immediately. Ard Bride is particularly well maintained. The un-named estate opposite cannot really be judged until completed, but as mentioned elsewhere there is an opportunity for landscaping/tree-planting. A small un-named estate off Pound Street is neatly looked after. Carndonagh Nursery gives a welcome touch of colour in a residential area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces of the main roads are generally good. The approach from Derry appears much better presented than theretofore, giving a good introduction to the town. There is poor roadside fencing in some places - for example, along the curve of the Ballyliffin road. In general, post-and-wire fencing should be avoided as it has a short life and is difficult to keep clear of weeds.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A town full of vitality which is rapidly addressing its environmental and visual components.