

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	30
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	10
Litter Control	40	23	21
Tidiness	20	12	10
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	196	188

Donegal, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It appears from your entry form that you receive no help from the local community - can this be the case? The town has been conspicuously improving under a number of headings in recent years, as is eminently visible in the streets and outlying estates, but one would not gather this from the rather perfunctory answers to the questionnaire. You did not provide a map in the space allotted: next year, please mark on your map all sites where improvements have been completed - it is unlikely that they will be missed, but one wishes to be sure to give credit for what has been done. Donegal has the potential for a much higher place in the Tidy towns results, but at present the most does not appear to be made of this potential.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town centre was looking smart and prosperous on adjudication day. The area which contains the wonderfully restored Castle, the Church of Ireland church and several well kept premises including the Gothic-style restaurant, is most sophisticated. The almost unique neo-Celtic Four Masters Church is also very well maintained within and without; the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in their particular architectural styles enhance their neighbourhoods considerably. The Railway Station is well presented, and the Abbey Vocational School exceptionally so. A number of business premises were photographed with a view to entry to the shopfront awards, but not any which have plastic or mass-produced signage.

LANDSCAPING

The green opposite the Library is very attractively planted; the Library grounds were surprisingly weedy on adjudication day. The grounds of all the churches mentioned above are a credit to their congregations, as are the surroundings of the school to its management. Two of the circular beds in the Diamond were unplanted which was also surprising. Bedding here and there in public and private properties adds tremendously and there could be more of this.

WILDLIFE

It is good to read that you are encouraging wild fowl to the estuary - other committees would be glad to know how you manage this. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, the river is a splendid but somehow neglected amenity - have the riparian owners been approached about access and

improvement?

LITTER CONTROL

There seemed to have been a considerable advance. It is a matter for constant attention, and those concerned are to be congratulated.

TIDINESS

Some kerbside weed, an unsightly shed opposite the railway station, some flyposting - these are very minor matters in a town which is essentially tidy, both in its business and residential quarters.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older houses and cottages are generally maintained with much pride. Ardeskin Heights, St. Joseph's Drive, new estates off the approach roads and housing in the neighbourhood to the north of the Post Office and Methodist Church contribute to a high mark in this category.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

At last the by-pass seems to be about to open - this should relieve congestion and allow the fine streetscape to be enjoyed to a greater extent; but more off-street parking will clearly still be needed. Extensive new surfaces and paving were being laid on the Ballybofey road - the result of this will be assessed next year. Surfaces in the town centre are very good indeed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A lively and handsome town, its streetscape much improved in recent years. A more vigorous developmental approach would place Donegal on a much higher level in the competition.