

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GLENTIES**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	29	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	242	236

Glenties, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Glenties has again done exceptionally well due to good planning and exceptionally hard work, the fruits of which were supremely evident on adjudication day. The town has twice been the national winner out of over 700 entries, as well as county and regional winner on a number of occasions, and was the recipient of a richly deserved Landscape Award last year. This is a truly remarkable achievement. Thank you for your very detailed Report, and also for the map which is one of the most comprehensive received. Comments below are made on sites and projects which are outstandingly good or (in a very few cases) less than satisfactory: it may be assumed that items not mentioned are more than adequate.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As usual, the principal public buildings and the churches are maintained to a very high level of excellence. The Highland Hotel was looking exceedingly smart; the Kevlon Hotel still needs its gable painted to match the frontage, and growth removed from gutters. A derelict school opposite the park needs attention. It was very good to note several prominent street houses being rebuilt in traditional style; among the many frontages admired were the Inniskeel Co-op, Molloy's, Paddy's Bar, Variety Store, the group at Brennans, the Post Office, the Aran Sweater Shop and John Joe's.

LANDSCAPING

The first class planting at the junction of Station Road and Main Street, the park at the other end of the town, and several landscaped areas which are part of the residential estates (below) are, once again, a real joy to behold. The concrete tubs at the public toilets and stone planters at the Tidy monument, had yet to be included in the floral scheme.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Surrounding field, woodland and moorland is rich in wild life and the aim of the Committee to protect these is admirable. The point made in your report under this heading on protecting and enhancing rather than creating, is well taken. The Wild Plant/Flower survey sounds interesting and an opportunity to read it would be welcomed. The Walks booklet is looked forward to.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter did seem to be more prevalent on adjudication day this year: it may have been an unusual day, and a careful relook will be given at the time of second adjudication. Disposable litter was seen in the Park, in the Rock area, and to a surprising degree in the fencing

at the Community School tennis courts. Not all the litter bins are adequate. A considerable amount of refuse had been dumped at the approach to the Famine Memorial, obviously over a period.

TIDINESS

An area of Station road was quite scruffy - not all of this may be attributed to ongoing development work. The surroundings of the Famine Memorial were conspicuously weedy. A poorly kept shed mars the approach to the otherwise neat Rock neighbourhood. Apart from 'corners' such as these, the town retains a far better than average appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As mentioned above, housing at the Rock is neatly kept. At Ardconnell, the central landscaping makes superb use of the natural topography. At Dr McConnell Crescent, the well tended open space was being enhanced on adjudication day by the planting of additional trees. The landscaping of the hillside down to the stream at Ard McGill is most imaginative. At Ard Patrick, not all of the houses are as well presented as their neighbours; lawns and bedding impressed. Some houses with excellent gardens - such as the one on the corner of Main Street and Nairn Road - give a 'lift' to their locations.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The problems regarding the proposed resurfacing of Main Street are appreciated, but the fact remains that the work needs to be done. Surfacing elsewhere is good, and new paving on the Glen Road as well as improved car parking at the graveyard were very favourably noted. The bridge walls are beautifully presented, and stone walls, such as in Station Road, add dignity.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A town of charm and distinction, lovingly cared for.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/99)

Once again a very high standard of dedication to the town and surrounding area was apparent. The tubs/planters referred to under *landscaping* had been attended to between the middle of June and August. Despite numerous improvements there are still those untidy yards and forecourts which have remained a problem for years. While most commercial buildings were brightly painted some, including the Bank of Ireland, were quite shabby. There was a little litter along the main street, also in the river. However, most surprising, at your level in the competition, was the presence of graffiti on the school wall on Station Road and on the back of one road sign on the Dungloe Road and a poster on a pole on Glen Road advertising an event on 10th July ! Before you will gain a significant increase of marks under *overall developmental approach*

you will need to state how you intend overcoming the long-term problem areas.