

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GREENCASTLE**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	19	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	15
Litter Control	40	21	20
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	20
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	182	172

Greencastle, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is very encouraging to read of the community support, as well as the very obvious support from the official bodies - the distinction always has to be made that industrial or commercial enterprise does not always go hand-in-hand with the minutiae of community interests: but here it does. Likewise, immense financial investment does not necessarily equate with what is desirable in townscape and the natural environment: but here there seems to be a happy union. Congratulations on the publication of the Greencastle Guide, which is attractively designed as well as providing so much information. When submitting your sketch map next year, please be sure to mark on it all sites where improvements (e.g. 'trees planted', 'new fence', etc) have been made over the previous twelve months.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The architectural heritage - the remarkable marine buildings including the Martello tower and the Coastguard Station - is well maintained as usual. The two churches are not included on your map and perhaps you consider them to be too far outside the village centre to be included in the judging? Both are extremely well kept, and it was good to see the tower of the RC church undergoing major restoration. The National Fishing Training Centre and Scoil Cholmcille are very well presented, enhanced by their well-kept grounds. The Pilot Station is a neat new building which fits in well with its surroundings. Business premises are well looked after; shops are handsome and well painted; plastic or mass-produced signs should be discouraged. The extension under construction at the Castle Inn seems to be very much in sympathy with the prevailing style.

LANDSCAPING

While the disappointment caused by last year's marking is readily understood, the fact is the landscaping projects were not remarkable by national standards: however, the landscaping at the corner of Pound Town and at the Port are attractive, remain well nurtured this year, and enhance their locations. The planting near the Post Office was delightfully eye-catching on adjudication day, and grassed areas very trim. It is good to read of future plans under this heading.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Guidebook, and the Information stand, drawing attention to flora and fauna and associated walks in the neighbourhood, are a real advance. There are suggestions in the Tidy Towns booklet for projects under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

Control seemed to be better than last year. Congratulations - it is an ongoing concern and requires the kind of work and energy from committees such as yours throughout the country which everyone wishes could better be spent on more creative projects.

TIDINESS

The distinction is made between the normal and acceptable clutter of commerce, and what can be achieved elsewhere. Little 'corners' here and there need attention. The shopping street was looking tidy on adjudication day. Kerbside weed was a problem in some other areas, such as Battery Brae and Pound Town. The untidy margins of the main road behind the Coastguard Station could be obviated by sowing grass and wild flowers right up to the roadside and not attempting to keep the verges weed-free. The ducting of cables has been a great help in achieving a tidier effect generally.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private homes are well looked after. The holiday homes at the Fort and at the Castle Inn are neatly kept. The latter respect the shape of traditional housing, and variations in colour of woodwork are attractive. The housing estate opposite the Church of Ireland is not shown on the sketch plan - Tidy Towns committees are asked to make it clear as to exactly what area they wish to have judged. The green here is reasonably well looked after, though kerbside weed was prevalent. The estate could benefit from extensive tree-planting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Though surfaces are poor in some areas, such as Pound Town, recent repaving is excellent. Stone wall building is particularly good - Pound Town is an example, and the stone features in the neighbourhood of the village green are noteworthy, including the cobbled traffic-calmer and the curved stone walls by the Port. The curved whitewashed wall adjacent to Kelly's needed repainting on adjudication day. Jetty and slipway works are impressive. The WC is well maintained. Signposting and street signage are clear and attractively designed. The principal car park is well looked after.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A most attractive village, where industry and commerce thrive. It is also well on its way to making an important impact on the county's Tidy Towns results.