

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NARIN-PORTNOO**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	20	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	17
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	179	174

Narin-Portnoo, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The aims of the Tidy Towns Committee in Narin and Portnoo seem to outpace the work as seen and assessed. It may be that the Tidy Towns Competition is not really geared to what is a district rather than a village - for instance, there are miles of roadway where in most villages there is only a quarter or half a mile - and the Committee may be striving with the intractable. There is also the present and one hopes temporary matter of so much physical development: a large number of sites are inevitably untidy. As it is, an immense amount of good work has been done, though this may not be immediately obvious. Next year, please be sure to include a map in the space provided; without this it is very hard to locate (for example the Herb Bed; and please mark on the map the locations of sites and projects which should not be missed.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The only building of 'architectural' interest is the Church, and this is handsomely looked after; it provides a commanding focal point on the landscape. The nearby building, perhaps a church hall, needed attention at the date of adjudication, and Morgan's fine premises needed freshening up with paint. The Narin Inn looked very smart indeed. A hotel or guest-house development looked promising - but the derelict hotel remains an eyesore.

LANDSCAPING

Conventional landscaping might be considered out of place - yet the well-planted beds on either side of a bye-road at Narin were most attractive. The stone seating area at the church is first class. The Herb bed and the Butterfly flower bed are modest but highly appropriate initiatives (perhaps they should be more properly considered under 'Wild Life etc). Verges are well trimmed in the more accessible areas. Last year's adjudicator's plea for more tree-planting should be emphasised again.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The neighbourhood is rich in plant, bird and animal life; interpretative signposting would certainly draw these matters to the attention of a wider public. The notices put up by the County Council about the desirability of conserving the wonderful dune system are helpful, but the caravans parked throughout the dunes give cause for

concern, and the poles which bring their power are most unfortunate in every respect.

LITTER CONTROL

This is remarkably good, considering the reputation holiday resorts have for litter. Congratulations to those who attend to it.

TIDINESS

Barrels to indicate 'no parking' look ugly; a rusty corrugated roof near the holiday homes is eyecatching; poor fencing, usually of the post-and-wire kind, is untidy along some stretches of road; these are fairly minor matters - though one wishes they were not there - and the overall scene is one of reasonable tidiness given that this is largely a rural/marine environment and not an urban area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Nothing looks better in this landscape than the traditional pitched-roofed gabled farmhouse. Those which are genuine and well looked-after are superb. The hilltop holiday homes interpret the tradition reasonably well - a pity a number of them have such unkempt surroundings. The cottages at the pier are picturesque and well maintained. Unfortunately there are several modern homes which, however tidy they may be, do not fit in at all; a baroque balustrade, no matter how well painted, simply looks grotesque.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As last year, the road system is quite well maintained. The WC had been nicely painted and its interior was clean on adjudication day. Roadside stone walls, especially the new wall on the road leading to the Narin beach, are splendid. Repair of stone walls in the vicinity of the pier might be a Local Authority project for the future.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A place of immense natural beauty, the objective should be to keep it that way while permitting sympathetic development.