

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **LETTERKENNY**  
County : **DONEGAL**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	22
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	25
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>239</b>

## **Letterkenny, Co. Donegal**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

It came as no surprise to this adjudicator to hear Letterkenny described recently on radio as the 'fastest growing town in Europe'. This must be due in part to the fact that the town not only looks beautiful with its many fine new developments (and old) but also to the fact that the town seems to have something to offer everyone and the quality of life seems to have the right balance between the demands of modern life in a global economy and the human need for recreation and leisure facilities. Letterkenny is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for this year's submission, it makes interesting reading.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The new Tourist Office was very much admired and rightly occupies an important focal point on arriving in Letterkenny. New developments throughout the town are tastefully designed and presented and, in particular back areas to the Main Street which have been opened up to feature infill building, are a welcome and fitting addition to the townscape. The new Aldi development on the edge of the town looks well also. Shopfronts are presented to an excellent standard in most cases and many are being considered for Shopfront Awards. Those few buildings which need to be upgraded need no mention here as you are aware of these. The town square is magnificent.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The many landscaped areas around the town and on approach roads are too numerous to mention here. All are presented to a standard of excellence. The new part on the Ramelton road was particularly admired and the tree lined entrance from the Derry road is taking on quite a stately appearance. Pride of place under this heading just go to the development of the magnificent Letterkenny Town Park, it is probably the best in the country. It has something to offer everyone, i.e. play areas for children of all ages, a wildflower garden, a silent stone wall enclosed garden, walks, a central meeting place and much, much more. It really is a grand achievement.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Scoil Cholmcille Nature Trail initiative is a wonderful idea and has to be admired both for the concept and in its execution. Congratulations to everybody involved, you have opened up new worlds of the pupils of Scoil Cholmcille. Letterkenny and environs present a variety of wildlife habitats which attract a wide diversity of species.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The town was visited three times in the course of first adjudication for an assessment under this heading. The overall presentation was found to be excellent for a town of Letterkenny's size, with very few weak spots with minor outbreaks. The latter included (1) the curtilage area incorporating the T.McCaul to the DIY premises on Pearse road; (2) the grass verge opposite the Youth Information Centre; (3) The Glenties road at the entrance to the sports grounds. Ninety percent of the litter was from Take Away outlets and the majority of this from Kentucky Fried Chicken. Some beer bottles and cans were noted in the small park on the Ramelton road. It is suggested that you undertake a litter survey to identify the source and frequency of litter and then take the necessary steps to tackle the problem at source, e.g. in Take Away outlets and Off Licences.

### **TIDINESS**

Another fine presentation under this heading! The town enjoys an overall appearance of tidiness. Some problem areas do exist as you are aware, these are: (1) what appears to be a breakers yard beside the new Tourist Office building should be screened if it is a permanent site; (2) the travelling people's site near St. Eunan's Cathedral is unfortunate, although it must be stressed that it is not a serious problem and is, relatively speaking, quite tidy. It is unfortunate that in a town the size of Letterkenny that a suitable site cannot be developed for the travelling community; (3) the environs of the entrance to the Sports Grounds. This area is underdeveloped which gives it an untidy appearance, hopefully the development of new housing nearby will bring about an improvement here.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Some of the older estates continue to be well presented, i.e. Ashdown and Sylvan Park. The sheer number of new developments makes it impossible to comment on them here. Suffice it is to say that all are being nicely developed and presented. Town houses continue to be presented to the standard we have come to expect. Well done!

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The new visual amenity development at the 'Dry Arch' roundabout is a handsome development which forms a very good first and lasting impression of Letterkenny. Approach roads and entrances to the town are presented to a standard of excellence in most cases and stone walls, especially those from the church to the (Gortlee) road junction were admired. The exposed rock face together with landscaping and verges at the latter junction are a nice touch. The 'sunken' kerbstones out the Glenties road should be reinstated and feature. Potholes in the hard shoulder at the outer reaches of the Ramelton should be eliminated. There have been many improvements under this heading in recent years which have come together this

year to give a substantial increase in marks.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression of Letterkenny is amongst the best in the country. The town has undergone many fine developments in the past decade or so and can take its place beside any modern town of the twenty first century. This report acknowledges the improvements but its focus is on its weaknesses (which are few) in order to offer suggestions for next year's programme.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/01)**

Do discourage advertising hoardings on approach roads as they can give the visitor an impression of clutter and untidiness – these were particularly apparent on the Dunfanaghy Road. Litter control on second adjudication day could have been to a higher standard, quite a lot was evident on the Dunfanaghy Road and by the bollards, at the roundabout adjacent to the town park and indeed at the park entrance. The charming stone County Museum was admired as was the new building in stone and an ochre coloured render on the Dunfanaghy Road. The presentation of the Auto Shop creates a bad impression at the top of the town. The buildings to Main Street were generally of a reasonably good standard, although a number appeared quite shabby in comparison. Perhaps for next year's competition, you could confine your entry to merely your application form, map and five year work programme.