

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYBOFEY-STRANORLAR**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	--
The Built Environment	40	28	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	--
Litter Control	40	26	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	22	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	203	--

Ballybofey-Stranolar, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your submitted Developmental Approach is clear, both in its aims and its identification of the problems that you face. You are to be commended for the attached map which is lucid and enlightening. It made the job of adjudication much easier. You may wish to consider the preparation of a five year development plan that would outline achievable completion dates to the projects you have set yourselves. It is noted that considerable effort has been made in the eight or so months since the formation of your committee.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Nena models factory, on the N15 approach road from Letterkenny remains a problem area. The Main Streets of the Twin towns have, generally, well maintained buildings with good shop fronts and very pleasant houses. The recently extended McElhinneys is at an appropriate scale for a developing town and remains well presented. The new Credit Union is a good example of modern Irish architecture whilst the 1939 School building in Stranorlar represents an earlier quality of design and style. The Millennium Clock is most elegant. The shopping centre besides McElhinneys would benefit from renovation/redecoration to provide a more homogenous façade. The Twin Towns would greatly benefit from the relocation of overhead cables where they exist, over the bridge and on the back streets, to underground ducting and the subsequent removal of poles. Raitts shop front did indeed look very smart.

LANDSCAPING

Trees along the mains streets are a great asset and your attempts to replace those that have been vandalized and nurture those that remain are noted. The area of road between the car park and the bridge, earmarked for improvements, would also benefit from good landscaping and not just pavement improvements. It was appreciated that the grass verges in this area were being strimmed on adjudication day. You have correctly identified other areas for improvement and we look forward to the realization of these aims in the future. The field behind the Shopping Centre, already improved, would now benefit from landscaping and planting.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Drumboe Wood is a great asset indeed and the riverside walk is most enjoyable. The river was clean except for two fallen trees along its southern bank. Unfortunately the path\road down from Jacksons hotel isn't as good as it could be and must be a little bumpy for pushchairs and the elderly. Many young mothers appear to use this facility and a smoother path would be of benefit to them. The grassy edges to the path would also improve with being trimmed back. The metal railing to the pedestrian bridge would be so much more attractive were it to be painted. The river is used by fishermen and

wildlife alike, the adjudicator was most heartened by the presence of a Heron. We look forward to the development at Dunwiley Fort.

LITTER CONTROL

Unfortunately there was a considerable amount of litter present on adjudication day despite the obvious provision of bins on the Twin Towns Main Streets.

TIDINESS

Generally tidy around the towns. The two hotels of Jacksons and Kees were extremely tidy and presentable and set a very high standard for others to follow.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses along Stranorlar's Main Street are most attractive with very well maintained gardens. Ard McCool and Ard McCarron were, in general, well kept. Whilst Cois Na Finna and the Blue Cedar Estates were both very well presented. Overall many houses and gardens were well maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The resurfacing of Donegal Road appears about ready to begin and will be a great bonus to the towns as good quality approach roads with well maintained verges and signposts are essential first indicators of the standards a town sets itself. The pavement improvement on the R252, opposite Jackson's Hotel was noted and it is hoped more pavement improvements will be carried out to other side streets. The road behind the field, mention earlier, requires attention. Long stretches have raised areas of stone chippings presumably to stop what is still happening – namely the parking of caravans.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The Twin Towns of Ballybofey and Stranorlar are lively and cheerful with good amenities and facilities. You have a large committee and are obviously full of motivation. You have a constructive development plan and, as you say yourselves, have already made good progress. We look forward to the continuation of this good work.