

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BUNCRANA**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	30
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	20
Litter Control	40	15	21
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	196

Buncrana, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

A more detailed map of Buncrana, highlighting areas where improvements have been made, areas where problems remain, the location of buildings of interest etc would also be of great benefit to yourselves as well as the adjudicator. Don't be afraid to draw your own map or trace over the existing one and add further information to it that cross references the projects outlined in your strategy plan. Your proposals for the next two years are most welcome.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The aim to improve access to the town for people with disabilities is to be applauded. The Drift Inn is a fine stone building with brick quoins and lintols but unfortunately part of the building has lost its roof, are there any plans to reinstate this? The new Tourist Office was admired and the information sign duly noted.

The Shell Station opposite was very clean and has a fine shrubbery adorning its forecourt. The Sacred Heart School and Adult Education Centre are very attractive buildings. The Pier appears to have undergone restoration work and the area, once fully developed, should be very pleasant with the Stranagor Bar and Restaurant a fine addition to this area. The Tullyarvan Mill was admired as was the new Credit Union. The Cranberry and Ubiquitous Restaurants do indeed look very attractive as did O'Flaherty's Bar. Generally the 2 and 3 storey buildings on Main Street are well maintained. The churches and the library were all admired.

LANDSCAPING

More work has obviously been done under this heading. An area adjacent to Buncrana Business Services and one on Swilly Road would make for pleasant green spaces if they could be landscaped. Seating along Aileach Road would benefit from attention or replacement. Fine maturing trees lined the Fruit of the Loom building as well as Main Street. A very pleasant area exists at Castle Bridge with good seating provision and is obviously a popular spot with local people. Market Square also looked very attractive.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Well done on the creation of the bird and bat boxes for Swan Park and other areas and in particular congratulations to Youth Reach. The Wildlife Workshops and Seminars are an excellent idea also as they promote interest from within the community. Please let us have details on these workshops and seminars. The walks from Castle Bridge to Ned's Point and Swan Park are excellent and the information sign was well located.

LITTER CONTROL

There was an extreme amount of litter and broken glass within the car park on Aileach Road as well as on the grassed areas of the shorefront. The existence of a temporary amusement park, within the vicinity, is acknowledged but the challenge is to deal with the impact such an amenity has on an area in terms of litter. A bin within the car park was full and further bags of rubbish had been left beside it. Further litter was seen on Swilly Road. Many of the bins around the town appeared to have been developed from old oil drums and are consequently very unattractive. A lot more effort is required under this heading.

TIDINESS

A site opposite the Gateway Hotel is fronted by some very untidy hoarding that really needs to be addressed. The two large menu boards outside the Drift Inn also look untidy. The old streetlamps within the car park on Aileach Road should either be repaired or replaced as they are most unattractive in their current disheveled state. Concrete blocks also lay in the road and are a hazard to vehicles. A further area of concern would be The Central Hotel and one or two derelict buildings on Lower Main Street.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Your plan to encourage further creation of residents association is commendable. There is a large overgrown area within Strand Court that would be so much better if developed as a public green space. Whilst the houses are in good condition the general area was quite untidy. The mixed development of Grianan Park was admired along with their gardens. Houses on St. Patrick's Road, Crana Road and Swilly Road were all admired. The three-storey, sea front terrace on Aileach Road is very impressive but spoilt by the condition of two of the houses. The new housing on the laneway to Tullyarvan mill look attractive and it is to be hoped that when complete the area will be resplendent with planting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The town sign on the Derry approach road was partly obscured by overgrowth. St. Oran's road roundabout is very attractive and well landscaped. The area in front of the Tourist Office requires resurfacing whilst the area behind it would benefit from being landscaped. The surface of Crana road is in poor condition. The old stone wall at the end of Swilly Road needs attention. The road to Tullyarvan Mill needs attention and the car park at the mill needs resurfacing.

The timber ranch style fence on the Carn approach road is in poor condition and the town sign at this point is again obscured by overgrowing weeds. Main Street is very well presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Buncrana has much to offer in terms of its built environment and natural amenities but must address the litter problem more strenuously.