

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	27
The Built Environment	40	34	35
Landscaping	40	26	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	28	23
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>198</b>

## **Donegal Town, County Donegal**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Last years adjudicator suggested the creation and adoption of a development plan, it is disappointing not to find one attached to your application this year. A 3 to 5 year development plan with achievable target dates set for each project would be most beneficial and a map of Donegal Town, 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. The omission of a map may have been an oversight but please do ensure you enclose one in next years competition.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The fenced area of hard standing, owned by the VEC, requires attention as it contained a lot of surface water on adjudication day. Dom Breslins recent development leaves much to be desired; the use of stone is not in keeping with the scale of the building and the use of so many different materials makes it appear too busy. Large developments such as this should be simple and elegant in design. The Mill Court shopping mews is very attractive and offers an alternative to regular street shopping. Generally the buildings on the Diamond looked well maintained particularly the Four Masters Bookshop and Magee's, but do heed last year's comments. Do try to relocate the remaining overhead cables within the town to underground ducting as this really does enhance the streetscape. Donegal Castle and Donegal Railway Heritage Centre are very impressive as is the Four Masters Obelisk. The Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, The Church of Ireland and St. Patrick's RC Church, built from Barnesmore red granite, are all very impressive. The Old Castle Bar, Coach house and Schooner Inn all looked well. It was noted that the Masonic Hall has been repainted to a high standard.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The seating area to the Donegal Craft Village was admired and well designed, with the exception of the broken timber bench to one of the picnic tables. The Diamond looked very presentable and the relocation of the overhead cables makes a big difference to the space. There is good provision of street amenities such as seating, telephone kiosks, bins etc. however, many of the stone planters were bereft of flowers which is a shame. The concrete planters themselves could be replaced with something more sympathetic to this busy public space and the three dead trees should be replaced as they give the impression that the area is uncared for. The area in front of the Post Office needs attention; weeding and repainting of metal railings. Can something be done about the barbed wire fence along the path to the Famine Graveyard?

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## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The picnic area was very presentable although the grass was a bit long. The 3Km walk along the bank of the River Eske is most enjoyable and the viewing point, taking in the vista of the bay, a great visitor attraction. Boat trips are a good way of experiencing the marine wildlife of the area. Last years comments are still relevant under this heading.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Quite a lot of litter was seen on the Letterkenny approach road. Litter within the town was not prevalent and overall Donegal Town appeared relatively litter free. Do highlight your work under this heading within your application form or development plan next year.

## **TIDINESS**

There is an untidy area around Lidl with pipes and builders materials – is this to be developed? There were a large number of black bin liners, presumably containing rubbish left in the Diamond. If they were there for collection you should try to ensure that collections are carried out on a more regular and earlier basis. The information panels outside the tourist information office need cleaning. There is a derelict building on Quay Street and the old theatre is very dilapidated; can anything be done with these buildings?

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Houses were admired on the Ballyshannon and Letterkenny approach roads and on Tirconnel Street where the gardens were very well maintained. A couple of houses just off the roundabout on the Killybegs approach road were in a state of disrepair but generally the houses in this area were well looked after. St. Mary's Park was admired but would benefit from additional landscaping. There is a lack of street signs and names for many of the housing estates, this is something that could be tackled by the housing associations themselves. Drumrooske estate is in good condition.

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

Letterkenny approach road lined with good hedges that support the flora and fauna. Verge trimming was taking place on the new by pass on adjudication day. Approach roads generally are in good condition and the grass verges of the Ballyshannon road are resplendent with ox eye daisies, however, the twin town sign was obscured by overgrowth. Do you have any plans to develop the town name signs on the approach roads to make them more welcoming? The road and footpath into Donegal Craft Village are in good condition with new planted trees on either side of the road. Do try to replace the one or two trees that appear to have died. It would be of great benefit to the public if the footpath was to run all the way out to the Craft Village from the town. The tourist

information sign on the Ballyshannon road needs to be replaced as it is badly faded from the weather.

Part of the stone wall on Eske Terrace has fallen into the river and needs repairing.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Efforts to improve litter control have been a success and Donegal Town appears the better for it. You really must get started on a 3/5 year development plan.