

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GLENTIES**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	42
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	33	27
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	30	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	260	254

Glenties, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Whilst your application submission highlights projects undertaken within the last year and in previous years it is imperative that you include a development plan for the years ahead. No doubt you have done so in the past and I would encourage you to do so again as marks have been lost under this heading. Do try to and keep your comments within the spirit of the Tidy Towns Competition. The enclosed map is most informative but the text needs to be clearer. Could you possibly print it on A3 paper next year? The photographs of the town and particularly the butterflies are an excellent addition to your application.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Paddy's Bar does indeed look very attractive. The shop fronts along Main Street are very well decorated. The removal of the overhead cables has dramatically improved the streetscape of the town. The blue perimeter wall of the school remains in need of attention. The Garda Station and the Bank of Ireland are well appointed. What is the situation with the factory that lies derelict on the narrow Bluestacks way? All of the Glenties schools were admired and the renovation work to the old boy's school is to be applauded. Brennans, as highlighted in last year's report requires attention to its façade. Well done on the new running track.

LANDSCAPING

Main Street looked very attractive with maturing trees, protected by tree guards and their trunks framed within red brick planters. It is further adorned by the many window boxes, planters, street furniture and lamps. There is also good provision of litter bins. The green opposite Kelvon house is a very attractive space with excellent planting although the ground appeared quite sodden, it is a shame that both sides of the wall are not stone clad as the exposed blockwork looks a little untidy. The granite wall in front of the grotto is a fine achievement. Further landscaping was admired in front of the Garda station and out the Ballybofey Road whilst the new grave yard looks well and is obviously very well maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Bluestacks Way is nicely signposted from Main Street. There is no doubting the abundance of flora and fauna within Glenties but do let us have written reports of your survey of plants and wild life including what you are doing to conserve and enhance them. Are there any publications under this category available to the general public?

LITTER CONTROL

Apart from a certain amount of litter in front of the Highlands Hotel the town of Glenties appeared free of litter. The provision of litter bins around the running track is perhaps the best indicator of your determination to eradicate litter from all areas of the town and is to be highly commended. Improvements have obviously been made.

TIDINESS

The garage workshop adjacent Lisdanar B & B was very untidy. Kelvon House is in need of urgent attention to its roof gutters, as they are full of weeds, and its façade. It is appreciated that this building is currently on the market and hoped that it will soon be under a new and more caring management regime. Do be wary of weeds growing in roof gutters as they appeared on a number of buildings. There are also weeds growing at the base of the Health Centre which need to be attended to.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses and gardens on the Glenties and Narin approach roads are very attractive. Houses within Main Street were well decorated with window boxes. Ard Patrick was admired for the use of pastel colours on house elevations. A lovely old cottage, adjacent to the Maxol Garage, and a house opposite Dr. McCloskey Crescent were admired. Dr. McCloskey Crescent itself looked splendid and the planting and landscaping are impressive, one or two of the houses in the Crescent require attention to their pathways as they have risen up and left an awkward step which could be dangerous. Ard McGill is also very attractive although the road is in need of resurfacing. Ard O'Connell is very neat and tidy and the houses along the Ballybofey road are very impressive, Hillside house and the gardens of Corbawn house and Clarendon B & B were particularly attractive.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Glenties approach road is quite uneven and the pavement is cracked in many places and the Balorbofey road is also quite poor. The road surface in front of the fire station also requires attention. There is excellent provision of off street parking along Main Street. Further stone walls on the Narin road were admired. The town sign on the Balorbofey approach road needs replacing – have you considered designing your own name signs for the approach roads rather than using the ubiquitous council signs?

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Glenties is a most attractive town with much to admire. The challenge is to continue to improve on your very high standards.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/2002)

It is always a pleasure to visit your lovely town for work or pleasure as Glenties

epitomizes the loving care of the environment shown by dedicated Tidy Towns Committees around the country. It may seem that adjudicators are looking for faults only but be assured that this is not the case. We are very aware of the enormous effort required just to maintain standards already achieved not to mention the effort necessary to progress further. We are also mindful of the valuable legacy you pass to future generations and we are grateful to you for that. Improvements are noted since first adjudication. The garage is nicely painted and its curtilage area tidied, well done! The majority of buildings enjoy excellent maintenance. Those in need of further attention include the Court House (weeds in gutters), the 'Mace' premises (could be painted to 'freshen' it's appearance, as it is an important focal point in the streetscape), and the 'Ard Connell Museum' which is a little weather-stained.

The banks of the stream continue to delight as do all the nicely landscaped areas around the town. The residential development located behind the Garda Station is less well presented than others within the town. Litter control is excellent and there has been an increase in marks in this respect. The recycling point looks a bit scruffy in itself. Congratulations on a job well done!