

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glencolmcille**

Ref: **736**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **181**

Category: **B**

Date: **16/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	
The Built Environment	40	29	
Landscaping	40	27	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	
Litter Control	40	17	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	22	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	
General Impression	10	5	
TOTAL MARK	300	181	

Overall Developmental Approach:

With a population of only 280 the tidy towns committee of 12 persons is a very good number and reflects the community spirit with of the village. The natural beauty of the area and the association with St. Colmcille makes this village and surrounds a very special place. There is much activity within the village and tourism is a very important part of the fabric. It is important to retain the nature of the village in every way. A plan is required to outline what is needed for the village to make the most of the facilities and provide the best combination of features. A five-year plan could focus year by year on the items that are intended and this could be updated each year. This is better than a piecemeal approach which can often be uncoordinated.

The Built Environment:

The buildings in the village consist of the Catholic Church within the village center –which

is well presented and the Church of Ireland with its attractive clock tower and clock telling the correct time. The Garda station and Health centres could benefit from some painting particularly the roadside wall by the Health centre. The thatched roofed cottage is attractive as are the number of Guest Houses that are attractively painted. The Hotel and Public House and Roary's are also well presented. There are a number of buildings and walls that need attention to painting around the village. The Halla Mhuire is attractively painted and the stonewall by the side of it and to the front of the park gives a very nice impression – the stone is particularly attractive. The tree sculpture within the park is interesting and creates a lot of curiosity.

Landscaping:

The natural landscape of the area is so attractive and characteristic of this part of the country it is almost a garden in itself and can be enjoyed all around the village. The park by the Halla Mhuire is very well maintained and work was in progress in the care of this at the visit. The shrubberies and lawns look well and it is a very good feature. The local gardens contribute well also to the landscape of the village and certain plants such as Fuchsia, Escallonia and Olearia succeed especially well in this salt laden windy location.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The surrounds of Glencolmcille and the seafront offer much wildlife interest without creating any extra facility. To appreciate the wildlife, people need to know what they might see, where and when. This sort of information could form part of a project that would be very valuable to visitors and local people alike. Information of this sort is also useful for passing on local knowledge to the younger generations of the area - information that is often taken for granted but needs to be passed on.

Litter Control:

There is a reasonably good litter situation in Glencolmcille. There were some small items of litter noted by the streetside but the picture was very clear otherwise. The river cleanup is a very positive move. Continued efforts are required to keep people aware of the need to take care of their own litter.

Tidiness:

A number of building projects at present are causing some disruption and this leads to untidy spots. These should be tidied up when the buildings are complete, all extraneous materials removed and the road frontage restored – the tidy towns committee could be a watch out for such. Some attention to fences and painting of walls is needed in a number of places.

Residential Areas:

The many scattered residential houses generally look well. Holiday homes are always in danger of being neglected when they are not inhabited frequently unless arrangements are made for their care. The two estates – Fr. McDyer Terrace and Marian Avenue are well cared for – Fr. McDyer Terrace looks very well, a little more attention to individual gardens and painting of railings and walls in places is called for in Marian Avenue to present an overall fresh and crisp appearance. The care of the entry green space is important also.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The attractive roadside verges are a lovely feature of the roads around the village. Some cutting back of grasses needs to be done as the summer progresses but it is wise to avoid a clinical look which would be alien to the nature of the local countryside. The surface of roads is reasonably good with some attention needed in places. It would be helpful to place distances on the signs for St. Colmcille's Well and Church – at present it is difficult to know whether these are walkable distances

or one would need a car – even at the end of the road to the Well and Church it is still not clear where these locations are and some help with this would be appreciated.

General Impression:

Glencolmcille is a very interesting historic place and a very sensitive approach is required for any developments taking place. Holiday homes should not be built in a sprawled out fashion across the landscape and any building should respect the local environment