

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballybofey-Stranorlar**

Ref: **692**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **210**

Category: **D**

Date: **29/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	210	206

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submitting your Tidy Towns 2004 application. Your updated colour coded hand drawn map is very welcome and aids adjudication greatly. The twin towns of Ballybofey-Stranorlar are progressing well, showing a good sense of community involvement through a number of mutually beneficial initiatives currently taking place. The size of your committee reflects a positive community interest, however, it is important to ensure that each individual member has specific roles and that these roles are monitored regularly in order for goals and objectives to be realized. A revision of your current development plan is recommended. Although it does contain some promising plans, your need for a more focused approach involving time scales and scheduling of plans would help monitor and improve progress.

The Built Environment:

The twin towns display varying levels of presentation along it's business premises and shop fronts. A more unified approach is needed but it is understood that this may take some time. The Church of Ireland is a very striking building but lacks any colour by way of plants or shrubs, which would enhance the building greatly. The Primary Care Centre and the Credit Union is built to a very high standard

There is a substantial amount of stone and debris at the top of Navenny car park that needs removed. Jacksons Hotel and the Villa Rosa Hotel look extremely well and are a credit to their owners. There is still problems with the amount of produce displayed on pavements, especially

amongst the Discount stores on Main street in Ballybofey. Perhaps this problem could be fully addressed by next years adjudication.

Landscaping:

Designating approach areas for local sponsored signage is a very good idea with the sign for the Villa Rosa Hotel looking very well on the Sligo approach road. The Committee should ensure that sponsors do maintain these signs as it is important to make a positive impression on entrance to the twin towns. The replacement of vandalized trees encased in their protective frames on the main Ballybofey Road by the bus depot look very well and are very necessary in helping to improve the image of such a busy commercial town.

The large carpark beside McElhenny's is well maintained with lots of tree planting and shrubbery throughout. Some of these shrubberies require cutting back before they encroach the parking spaces. There is some lovely landscaping in front of the Golf Club displaying an array of nicely planted colourful flowers and shrubs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Drumboe Woods and Wildlife Habitat is a wonderful asset to the twin towns. As recommended last year, display boards highlighting the various animal species would be an interesting feature and a very helpful guide to the visitor and tourist. The sign directing the visitor to Drumboe Woods and the River Valley is quite small and would easily be missed. It has however been noted from your developmental approach that efforts are being made to improve signage here.

Litter Control:

On the day of adjudication, there was some small evidence of litter throughout the car park areas and the Main streets. It is understood that such a busy commercial town will always struggle with litter problems and maintaining good co-operation between Donegal County Council and FAS is vital to progress in this area. Your organised Community Action and Clean Up Day is a positive move towards improvement and helps create awareness within the community. The colourful mural at St Marys National School could incorporate anti litter slogans to help develop childrens awareness of their environment at an early age.

Tidiness:

The competition run between housing estates is a innovative idea and has without doubt been beneficial as in general all housing estates had a very high level of tidyness on the day of adjudication. The areas behind the shopping centre still maintain a poor appearance, however, persistent talks with the County Council and shop owners will hopefully aid future progress. On the Sligo approach Road, the amount of signage is questionable on entrance to Topline Furniture which makes for an untidy appearance. Good use of decorative street furniture throughout the twin towns.

Residential Areas:

Town View Heights and Barnes Court show a good standard of maintenance with nice tree planting along the green area. Some lovely planting is evident on entrance to Carrick Crescent Estate and the stone walls are very attractive. The stone wall in front of Glenview Park looks well, although some houses need attention to paint. One particular house in Woodlawn Estate has a magnificent display of rose bushes and is a credit to its owner.

The annual housing estate competition should help motivate individuals to maintain this high standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As the twin towns are accessed by four main roads, it is vital that all entrances to the town are well

maintained and surfaced. In general the approach roads are in good repair and well tended. The road behind the main car-park is badly in need of re-surfacing with one particularly large pothole which easily floods. Reiterating last years comments, the back areas between Jacksons Hotel and the Main Street at Villa Rosa need attention.

General Impression:

The progress of the twin towns is reflected in the marks awarded. The Committee should take on board the recommendations and marks from this and previous years reports to help realize current and future goals and objectives.