

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Brockagh-Cloghan**

Ref: **443**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **206**

Category: **A**

Date: **28/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	206	201

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submitting your Tidy Towns application along with your five-year plan and 2003/2004 progress report. This is a very comprehensive plan, outlining clear and specific objectives, which are realistic and achievable as long as there is continual community involvement.

For such a small town, a committee of seven members is very commendable and shows a positive involvement within the community. As stated last year, a simple hand drawn map would be extremely helpful in helping to ensure all improvements are noted.

The Built Environment:

The numerous idyllic stone walls featured throughout this quaint village make for a very interesting stroll around its surrounds and look well against the stunning views of the Blue Stack mountains. They also reflect the traditional value of this village as the gateway to the Donegal Gaeltacht. The Heritage Centre is very well presented and is a valuable and interesting attraction for the Tourist. The Health Centre is also neatly presented.

As it is a focal point for the village centre, Ramblers Inn requires painting and an injection of colour such as hanging baskets and potted plants. Reiterating last years comments, the old petrol pumps have still to be removed. While difficulties in rectifying the problems with derelict buildings are understood, these must remain a major priority for the Committee. Although it may take time, persistent liaison with the County Council should help rectify any existing problems.

Landscaping:

There is some lovely landscaping on both approach roads, which appear to be well maintained, however, there is still more scope for further planting. Placing flower boxes or potted plants beneath the 30 mile per hour speed limit signs and under the approach signs for Cloghan would look very well. The plans for the provision of name signs in stone on both sides of the village sounds promising and will hopefully be completed by next years Tidy Towns Competition.

Flower boxes and hanging baskets would be welcome on street lights throughout the town. The landscaping beside Harkin's Bar looks well maintained and colourful. The trees that are planted along the stone wall opposite Harkin's Bar look extremely well.

Gardens of some individual houses throughout the village show that the owners take a great deal of pride in their community with wonderful displays of shrubbery and flowers. Encouraging home owners to maintain and develop their gardens should be another major priority for the Tidy Towns Committee.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Reiterating last years report, the need to develop the village's wildlife and natural amenities is extremely worthwhile and is better started on a small scale rather than put off until a future date. Your 2001-2005 development plan outlines great ideas to action this area and hopefully we will see some improvements in next years adjudication.

Litter Control:

There is a very high standard of litter control with no visible evidence of litter on the day of adjudication, which indicates a high level of litter awareness within the community. The presence of decorative litter bins was noted throughout the village.

Tidiness:

There is a very tidy appearance to the village. This is helped by the good use of street furniture and the neat appearance of individual premises. As commented last year, the curb stones stacked opposite the Heritage Centre need to be used up in the footpath works or removed to an off street store as this detracts from the visual amenity approaching the village centre. From reading your 2003/2004 progress report, it appears that the overhead cables are due to be removed this year, which I am sure will be welcomed by all the community and should enhance the image of this lovely village.

Residential Areas:

Individual houses are generally well presented, displaying a good variation of shrubs, potted plants and trees, which enhance visual amenity of the residential areas. Due to the compact nature of this village, individual houses will always play a very important role in creating a positive impression to the visitor and tourist.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads are generally very well maintained with improvements in footpaths noted. It is unfortunate that overhead cables were not removed in time for this years competition, however, as stated in your progress plan, this is still scheduled to be carried out in 2004.

The roadside stone walls throughout the village enhance it's image greatly.

General Impression:

Brockagh-Cloughan is an extremely tidy and welcoming village with clear objectives and goals set out in the villages five year plan. It is time now to push progress forward in order to realize these plans fully, which ought to involve the entire communities efforts in doing so.