

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bundoran**

Ref: **278**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **213**

Category: **C**

Date: **21/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	29	27
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	213	206

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submitting your Tidy Towns 2004 Application. Bundoran is making steady progress, however, the reduction in committee members from six to four is disappointing and hopefully does not reflect a lack of interest. Reiterating last years report, a recruitment drive is very necessary, particularly to involve the local business community, primary and secondary schools. This will help maintain a clear focus on the objectives you want to achieve and setting of targets and enables you to gain support from the private and public sectors which in turn will help you move forward. A three to five year plan of activities of the Tidy Towns committee has yet to be submitted.

The Built Environment:

The diverse combinations of old and new buildings in Bundoran make for a very interesting stroll around the town. The Primary Care Centre, Library and Council Offices are built to a very high standard and are extremely well maintained. The Hollyrood Hotel looked particularly well, as did the Casa Mia Guesthouse on the Sligo approach road. The terrace of two storey houses opposite the sea front have a very pleasing affect, apart from one derelict house, which needs attention. Some railings here also need attention. Bollards need reset at the entrance to the west end car park. The amount of signage is still questionable, especially on the Sligo approach road and the proliferation of sandwich board signs on the Main Street creates an untidy appearance. Some attention to paint in the main street is still required. A problem still remains with numerous derelict buildings throughout the town and on approach roads. Rectifying these would greatly enhance the

towns image and would progress the town immensely.

Landscaping:

The green area surrounding Waterworld and the Pay Area, is generally very neat and tidy with some evidence of fresh planting in front of the entrance to Waterworld. The childrens play area is very well developed and is an extremely beneficial facility to such a popular tourist town. The newly built stone wall in the car park opposite the play area is well presented and has a very pleasing affect, especially with the addition of new street lights, which could be even further enhanced by the use of hanging baskets.

The general appearance of the grassed areas by the seafront and by Tullan strand is still very well maintained, with the outstanding river and promenade planted areas coming into bloom. There is also a nice display of shrubbery outside the Civic offices and a nice green areas neatly maintained surrounding the Catholic Church. If the town committee could find the resources perhaps the hiring of a landscape gardener or contractor could be considered to develop some of the less well developed areas of the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The location of Bundoran provides excellent opportunities for the protection and interpretation of wildlife and natural amenities. Last years recommendations regarding the strategic placing of display boards should be taken on board as there is definitely more scope for enhancing awareness of the town's natural amenities and habitats. The forthcoming Ocean Festival is a crucial opportunity to motivate the committee to promote and develop this area.

Litter Control:

Firstly, the provision of a traffic and litter warden for the summer months by the Council must be commended, as is the co-operation between primary, secondary schools and the local urban Council. In general, the town was very neat and tidy with some small evidence of litter on the main street, opposite the fire station, on the beach and on the pavements in front of Waterworld as a result of a school tour. Despite the main car-park obviously having been cleaned, there was a considerable amount of cigarette butts piled up in corners. Summer time in Bundoran is an extremely busy time, especially over bank holiday weekends and therefore necessitates viligance in keeping the town tidy. The increased provision of bins throughout the town was noted and is very encouraging.

Tidiness:

The sea front car parks and walkways are very well maintained with green areas freshly cut. The co-ordination of signs still needs to be addressed with last years comments applying again to the 'Star of the Sea' Guesthouse. On entering the town the 'Hire and Sell Centre' was littered with signs and empty boxes and could do with a complete makeover. The 'Bella Vista' Guesthouse has a very nicely paved car park at the rear of the property with well maintained rose gardens and potted plants throughout. An idyllic stone cottage, tastefully adorned with hanging baskets and flower boxes on the Newtown Road also highlighted individual enthusiasm and co-operation with the Tidy Towns committee.

The newly paved walk area that has been developed at the river leading to the beach is very attractive with well laid out street furniture and ample supply of bins. While the many beach front apartments have a very neat appearance, perhaps for future development, better use of colour design could be taken into consideration.

Residential Areas:

Bundoran is continually developing as a holiday town and from a thorough inspection of recently built self-catering developments, it appears that most of the green areas are well maintained with many residents cutting their lawns at the time of inspection. There is however much scope for

further developing gardens by planting more flowers and shrubs such as Fuchsias and Olearia, which weather Bundorans' climate well. Some of the caravan sites in the town ought to consider planting more shrubs and displaying some potted plants, particularly on entrance to their sites. The boundary fences on some of these caravan parks should be painted or replaced. Although neat and tidy, generally there was very little evidence of hanging baskets and flowers displayed throughout estates in Bundoran. An injection of colour throughout is badly needed. There are however a number of extremely attractive Guesthouses and B&B's that are an immense asset to the town's image.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads throughout the town are generally good but lack colour and landscaping. On both sides of the town there is a lovely wooden potted plant in full bloom under the Tidy Towns sign on entrance to the town. These would look really well under the sign for the 40 mile an hour speed limit sign on the Sligo approach road. The Tullaghan approach road adjacent to the 'Casa Mia' Guesthouse looks a bit neglected and needs tidying up. The entrance to the West End car park needs re-surfacing and would benefit from being landscaped. Hanging baskets could do a lot here. The metal seating, however, looks well and the car park is generally very neat. The Ballyshannon approach road's grass requires cutting and some evidence of litter was detected. The demolition of an old premises opposite the Shell Petrol Station makes for an untidy appearance. The new lighting at the seafront and Roghey walk looks very well and the bi lingual signs are very impressive.

General Impression:

The progress of Bundoran in the Tidy Town's Competition is reflected in the marks that have been awarded. The Committee should now take account of the marks and recommendations in this and previous reports to progress the future of the town. Bundoran has an abundant amount of facilities to offer both the tourist and the local residents, but these need to be continually maintained and developed.