

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carndonagh**

Ref: **639**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **195**

Category: **C**

Date: **23/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>191</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The report that you furnished with your entry reflects your determination to progress in the competition. You should now prepare a simple three- to five-year plan, setting targets on a year-by-year basis, in order to give yourselves a clearer focus on the objectives you want to achieve. While you appear to have established a good relationship with statutory bodies and local organisations in your town, an established plan will also give these bodies a clearer outline of the way forward.

### The Built Environment:

The Diamond, which is the focal point of the town, presented well. Most business premises are neatly maintained and painted. The planted area with its neat shrubbery and young trees looked well and the streetscape has been much improved by placing cables underground. The Catholic Church, with its extensive grounds and car parks, was landscaped to a very high standard and continues to impress. The Carndonagh Public Services Centre, with its modern architectural design and open spaces, is to be commended. The Community School and the Hospital were well looked after. The old school was freshly painted. The new shopping centre, also presented very well. However, some business premises in the Diamond are in need of renovation and painting. Perhaps something could be done to improve the appearance of the Colgan Hall, which is a fine old two-storey building and is a dominant feature in the town. As mentioned in last year's report, the old factory building is unsightly.

## **Landscaping:**

Considerable landscaping work has been carried out throughout the town. Of particular note is the landscaping of the Catholic grounds, with the grass neatly trimmed and some lovely floral displays. The Community School grounds were well maintained the hospital grounds also looked very well. Trees, shrubs and flowers have been planted in the Diamond and set it off very well. The small areas of floral displays throughout the town added visual interest. Grass margins along the approach roads were neatly cut. Private gardens on approach roads and in residential areas were well maintained. There is a nice shrubbery planted in the vicinity of the Donagh Cross. The Church of Ireland graveyard was also well maintained.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The location of Carndonagh, with its abundance of natural amenities, offers wonderful scope for the protection and interpretation of wildlife in the area. You should consider carrying out a survey of the flora and fauna in the locality, possibly getting the school children involved, and drawing on the expertise of local wildlife enthusiasts.

## **Litter Control:**

There was very little evidence of litter in the main streets on the day of inspection. The new shopping centre was litter free although there was considerable activity going on in it. However, some rubbish had been placed outside the gate of the recycling centre. There was also an unsightly accumulation of litter in the river adjacent to the bridge.

## **Tidiness:**

Apart from some premises that are in need of painting and renovation, the Diamond neatly and tidily presented. However, some street furnishing such as litterbins are in need of repair. As commented on earlier, the placing of cables underground in the Diamond contributes immensely to the tidy effect and you should strive to get this programme extended further through the town. Approach roads and residential areas also looked neat and tidy. The old school sign adjacent opposite the new shopping centre should be replaced and the sign for the riverside walk is damaged. The old factory continues to present problems. The petrol pump at the junction of the Bunrana and Ballyliffen roads looks untidy.

## **Residential Areas:**

Private houses along all approach roads were presented to a high standard. Gardens were nicely landscaped with some eye-catching flowers and shrubberies. Mature housing estates looked very well, with houses neatly painted and maintained, and there were some lovely floral displays. There are some new housing developments and gardens still have to be developed. Millbrae Meadows is a lovely open-plan housing development.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The new road, which is currently under construction, will be a welcome addition to the infrastructure of the town. Approach roads were generally well maintained. Hedges were neatly trimmed, but some railings and walls need attention. However, some commercial businesses along these roads present a somewhat untidy effect and could be improved with some form of screening. The streets around

the Diamond looked well and streets are being gradually improved.

**General Impression:**

There is a continual improvement in the appearance of the town. While considerable challenges remain, a focussed and coordinated approach, with the cooperation of the public, business and voluntary sectors, should ensure continued progress.