

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigart**

Ref: **396**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **249**

Category: **B**

Date: **04/04/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	45
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	21	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	249	245

Overall Developmental Approach:

The committee provided an abundance of detailed information on Carrigart which gave a clear impression of the high level of community driven involvement and completed projects in Carrigart thus far and a vision of on going and future developments for this lovely Village. The photographs, newspaper clippings, correspondence to and from the various local bodies and groups, map and Development plan were all of good assistance and very much highlights the great affinity to the village and the attention to detail that is the success of this Tidy Town Committee. It would now be advisable to look from 2005 and beyond to continue the excellent work to date.

The Built Environment:

The blend of buildings, layout of the village and visual look of Carrigart present an overall good appearance. The addition of lovely natural stone walls throughout, new roth iron lighting on the main street, street furniture and completed paving are all a nice addition to the main street. The village has an old world feel to it and the balance of traditional signage, the Victorian era Hotel at the top of the town, and the Celtic cross dedicated to the fourth earl of Leitrim all are unique positives for the village. Both Churches are attractive and the grounds kept very well. The railings around the monument in the interim even could do with a touch up of paint. There is a wealth of history and information in the area a possible use of the of the old Health Centre building could be a Museum/Visitor information & focal point for the village. The Fire station could do with a little more attention. The Sheephaven Credit Union, Foys, & Weavers are all well maintained buildings and are

attractive looking.

Landscaping:

The standard of landscaping in the village is excellent and great credit is due to all involved in this area. The Strand Park and the Public Park Picnic Areas were all beautifully landscaped with an abundance of flowers and colors including the old red cart and the central Rose display. The overall finish in these areas is extremely high inclusive of stone built walls, stone seating, bird houses, array of flowers, foliage and shrubs, wheelchair access, top marks for layout and location. The Carrigart Hotel front and garden to the side is beautiful and creates a very focal impact of beauty and colour. On every step of the main street this area has been developed to its maximum potential with flower pots and baskets and trees planted. The Church's and grounds are well cared for and again the lawns are cut and well maintained. Some further planting needs to be done in the newly built Mulroy Park. Radharc an Oileain needs a complete overhaul and green areas and house gardens need immediate attention. For the most part the private houses on all of the approach roads and down to the beach area are all maintained to a high standard these properties add to the overall high standard found in Carrigart.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The very combination of rural location with a coastal shoreline is a natural habitat for a range of birds and mammals specific to the area. The billboard sign as you drive in and out of the park is helpful but a more informative plaque or stand towards the beach front detailing this information to the local area might be better placed. If use of an information building were to be found sometime in the future in the village then local projects done by school children on Wildlife and natural amenities in the Carrigart area plus the study done on the saltmarsh area by two of the Tidy Town Committee on the local Flora and Fauna could be displayed for public use and viewing.

Litter Control:

Overall Litter Control was good in the main street and local environs. The black bins were visible and a nice addition to the main street. The Wooden ones down at the picnic and park areas blend in nicely. The bins were nearly full at the Beach Park, Public park and Monument but there was no noticeable litter lying in these areas. The Bottle Bank area was clean and maintained. There was some litter noticed in the housing estates notably Radharc an Oileain.

Tidiness:

Carrigart through efforts of the Committee and the various groups presents a united front of Tidiness in the main village. The area to the beach front which becomes the back buildings of the main street were improved in looks and progress has been made there.

The very nature of the layout of the town and the parking and double parking would appear to be a problem on the main street especially in the height of the Summer season. I've noted that the Village renewal scheme may address this issue. The overhead wires Cable and phone were still there and once they are run underground it will be an addition to the visual look of the main street. The land/plot to the left the Beach Car Park as you drive down had a burnt out Anthony McGinley Bus in the back garden which was unsightly, also noted in the Car Park were the Coils and Machinery from the ESB continuing work.

Residential Areas:

The overall standard was good here both in the private houses, main street dwellings and the estates, the main notable exception to this was Radharc an Oileain which in my judgement brought down the overall mark and standard. Rampant litter, unkempt gardens, broken fences, most houses in need of painting and general maintenance and an overall look of untidiness and aesthetically bleak. If the committee is able to address this area and bring together the residents and with their

own combined efforts make inroads here, it would be advised. Mulroy Park had some litter but as a newly built area it was clean and maintained nicely. Some further planting and shrubs in the green belt areas would be an addition here. Mulroy view was very well maintained. Clean, Tidy, nice gardens, hanging baskets, lawns cut and the uniform paint work and blue doors all added to the lovely appearance of this estate. Some Private houses on the main approach roads were also very impressive and these played their part in the overall presentation of the town.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some of the approach roads were in need of resurfacing especially along the Downings Milford and Cresslough roads. The car park beside the Carrigart Hotel also needs resurfacing here. The main road and new paving under the renewal scheme has added to the overall standard of the village. The trimming of hedges and verges on the approach roads were good and there was sufficient growth to look well without being too clinical. Road Signs were well placed and visible. The Wooden Carrigart and Slan Go Foil signs on the Milford Road were attractive and maybe more of this style could be placed. The Bi Lingual use of signs is to be commended.

General Impression:

There is without doubt an energy and commitment among the Committee and within the Village itself that is very tangible as you arrive in Carrigart. The sense of Community, the great work carried out thus far and the high standard in the overall development approach i.e. parks and picnic areas, landscaping, and litter control have all added to the success of the Village this year. There is always room for improvement and a challenge ahead and if all the community can be brought together to achieve this, all the better. Carrigart is a lovely place to live and a beautiful village to visit. I look forward to the next 5 year plan for the village and to future developments. I wish the enthusiastic & motivated committee well.

Second Round Adjudication:

A pile of gravel on the Letterkenny approach road to Carrigart created a bad impression on second adjudication day. More building materials appeared to have been dumped by the wall area at the water's edge near the beautifully maintained park area. Building materials should be removed once construction work is complete. Road surface appeared rather rough. A rough forecourt area on this road also looked unfortunate and some resurfacing should be considered in this location. Most of the properties in the village centre looked well, of note being the North Star on Main Street which looked quite fresh, as did the Post Office. Carrigart is always a pleasure to visit and the high level of enthusiasm shown by its residents is very evident in its presentation!