

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Culdaff**

Ref: **220**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **187**

Category: **B**

Date: **22/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	20
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	15
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	187	182

Overall Developmental Approach:

Some improvement has been made this year. However, in order for you to achieve real progress, it is now necessary that you to prepare a three- to five-year plan. The plan should indicate, on a point-by-point basis, the objectives that you will set. This should help you adopt a systematic approach in improving and enhancing the village and its environs.

The Built Environment:

The village green, which is the focal point of the village, is surrounded by a mixture of business premises and private housing. The green was very well presented and maintained. Buildings were well maintained and, of particular note, was the nice combination of a row of old cottages and conventional housing. Another nice touch is the village pump, which is neatly housed and preserved. The Church of Ireland is the dominant building and was well presented. Good progress has been made in renovating the old hall. The derelict building beside the hall was noted. There is considerable building work in progress on the outskirts of the village, and this is causing some disruption of a temporary nature.

Landscaping:

The old estate on the Bunagee approach has a well-maintained grass area with a neat flower garden. The car park opposite the Garda Station had a nice shrubbery and flower garden. The green at St. Boden's terrace was nicely landscaped. The mature trees set the village green off well. The village centre could do with some added colour, perhaps the addition of some floral arrangements could carry out this function.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Culdaff is blessed with good natural amenities including its proximity to the seashore. The beach and dunes system "life" protection programme which is being run in cooperation between Donegal County Council, the University of Ulster and the local community is to be commended. The riverside walk offers further potential for the identification of wildlife in your catchment area. You should seek advice from local environmental groups and also get schoolchildren involved in a project towards this end. The provision of information on the flora and fauna of the locality would greatly enhance the enjoyment of the natural amenities by both locals and visitors alike.

Litter Control:

There was some litter in evidence in the village centre on the day of inspection. In particular, there were cardboard boxes dumped behind the green wall adjacent to the church. There was also considerable litter in the vicinity of the building site.

Tidiness:

The village centre was neat and tidy, with some exceptions. Of particular note was the nice arrangement of seating set against the stone wall with flowers inset. And, as already referred to, the village pump added a nice feature to the street furniture. Some signage poles should either be replaced or painted. As commented on in last year's report, merchandise outside shops creates an untidy effect.

Residential Areas:

Older residential areas looked very well, with houses nicely painted and gardens well presented. St. Boden's Terrace presented well and the new sign was noted. Private housing, including the row of old cottages in the village centre, were presented to a high standard. The new open plan housing estates offer new challenges and it is important that there is good liaison with the developers to ensure the estate is finished off to an acceptable standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The car park opposite the Garda Station was well maintained. The approach roads looked well with their blend of natural vegetation and landscaping. The road to the beach was well maintained, but the beach car park needs resurfacing. As commented on in last year's report the new roads into the new housing estates will need much attention.

General Impression:

Care needs to be taken that the village atmosphere of Culdaff is not overwhelmed by the major housing developments that are taking place. You should now focus on preparing a simple plan that would clearly set out your priorities for the next three to five years.

