

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Donegal Town**

Ref: **337**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **202**

Category: **D**

Date: **02/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	22
The Built Environment	40	36	34
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	11
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	28	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>194</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submitting your Tidy Towns Application 2004. Your Town Enhancement Plan is a very comprehensive assessment of Donegal Town which has already appeared to have greatly assisted the Committee in identifying realistic goals and objectives and most importantly, setting time-scales for improvements. For such a large town, a large Committee is necessary, although it is important that each of the members role is clearly defined. Your scheduled work programmes are crucial to the successful progress of your enhancement plan and should be monitored regularly.

### The Built Environment:

The wall along the Methodist Church needs painting or perhaps, at a later date if funds are available, this wall could be rebuilt in a similar coloured stone to the church. The Post Office along Tryconnell Street looks rather drab and requires improvements. The Church of Ireland is a highly impressive building and it's stone faced wall is very attractive. In general, the schools are well presented and their green areas are nicely maintained. The painting of the Waterbus office was noted and is commended. The Quayside car-park is fairly well maintained, however, some of the green bollards require painting as does the Garda Station opposite the car-park. Hanging baskets and potted plants would also look well at the Garda Station. The Central Hotel, The Shoebox, Dom Breslins and The Abbey Hotel are all extremely well presented and are a credit to their owners. The news to relocate the Tourist Information Office is welcome as this should be an important focal point within the town. The wall opposite the Test Centre is badly in need of some improvements.

## **Landscaping:**

Some lovely evidence of fresh planting along the Killybegs Road. The recent landscaping at the Millpark roundabout is a great success and the Committee must ensure this is maintained to its existing high level. The Ballybofey roundabout, however, still requires landscaping. The paved area in the centre of the Diamond is extremely well presented and well laid out. The Joe Mundy memorial also looks very well. Plans to landscape the cartilage area and car-park at the John Bosco Centre looks promising and will benefit this area of the town greatly. The small green area at the end of the Harbour would look well with some planting of flowers. The single tree standing alone here looks a little sparse. The green area beside the Methodist Church is extremely well presented and gives a lovely injection of colour into the area. The hanging baskets suspended along the fencing of the RC Church are very attractive.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The new graphic display explaining the history of the old Abbey looks very attractive and is very informative. The display board explaining the different species of fish to be found in the area is also very welcome. Donegal has much to offer the visitor today as existing amenities such as the Waterbus Trip and The Old Abbey are well developed. The replacement of the marking posts along the river bank walk was welcomed.

## **Litter Control:**

The appointment of a maintenance officer for Donegal Town is both welcomed and highly commended. Business premises, individual houses and estates must remain vigilant in trying to keep the town tidy. The Committee's Recruitment Poster and the Declaration of Intent are all great ways of developing good community involvement within the town and also helps to create environmental awareness. One of the school shelters displayed a very colourful mural. Perhaps more of these murals could be painted using anti litter slogans and pictures to help develop children's awareness of their environs at an early age. On the day of adjudication, some small evidence of litter was noted throughout the town. Despite the Diamond area have obviously recently been cleaned, there was a significant amount of cigarette butts along the curbed areas.

## **Tidiness:**

In general the presentation of shop fronts look very well in the Diamond area although some unnecessary produce displayed on the pavement in front of Mavourneens Home Thoughts creates an untidy appearance. As outlined in your enhancement plan the overall tidiness of the town should improve once all building works have been completed. The Committee should ensure builders remove all extraneous materials before vacating sites. There is good use of decorative street furniture throughout the town, especially within the Diamond area. Refurbishment of street furniture noted and commended.

## **Residential Areas:**

The local Tidy Towns Competition held in September is an excellent idea and some estates have obviously reacted well to this challenge. Attention to weeding all along the curbing throughout St Marys Estate requires attention. While most of the houses are well presented, the walls in front of most houses need attention to paint. Drumrooske Estate looks well. A lot of thought and effort has gone into the landscaping of the green areas within this estate and this is commended. Some attention to grass cutting and weeding along the curbing on the entrance to the estate is needed. There is very little evidence of landscaping in the green area in front of Ardeskin Heights. Great scope here for some fresh planting.

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

All approach roads are generally in a good state of repair, however, the Ballybofey approach road does require re-surfacing in places. General plans to refurbish roadside areas and re-surface roads along New Row is badly needed and should have a positive effect on the visual amenities in this area of the town. Other areas in need of re-surfacing include the entrance to Quayside car-park, Donegal Castle and Donegal Craft Village.

### **General Impression:**

The progress of Donegal Town is reflected in the marks that have been awarded. The Committee should take on board the recommendations from this and previous years reports in order to help further progress the development of the town.

Donegal Town was bustling with Tourists on the day of adjudication. It is anticipated that the development of the town over the next number years will be remarkably improved as long as the existing positive community involvement continues. Well done and good luck in your preparations for 2005.