

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glenties**

Ref: **163**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **272**

Category: **C**

Date: **04/04/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	38	33
Tidiness	20	18	17
Residential Areas	30	30	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	34
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>264</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

It is very apparent from the content of the 2004 report submitted inclusive of the detailed and colorful map, clear photographs and further detailed information on walkways that the Glenties Tidy Town Committee are very much on top of things and it is this order and dedicated approach that is very apparent in the town itself. The achievements of the town are visibly there to be seen and it has taken years, great effort & focus to get thus far. The success of Glenties is the targeted and clear approach to managing the work load, inclusive of current progress report, development work and future plans. The number of past awards presented to the town has not meant that the committee has sat on its laurels, in actual fact it would appear to spurn them on each year to do better. This year is no exception.

### The Built Environment:

The approach roads with private houses, and public properties in the centre of town are all very well maintained, painted and with nice landscaped gardens. The visual scene down the main street is very impressive especially with the colour of buildings and the addition of flowers and hanging baskets. The running of electric and phone cables underground has helped the overall attractive appearance of the town. Properties such as the Market Hall, Community Centre, Keeney's Bar, Paddy's Bar and The Museum are all in pristine condition and add an overall high standard to the main street. The Housing Estates Ard McGill, Dr. McCloskey, Ard Patrick and Ard Connell are excellent with regard to maintaining the houses and surrounds. The central seating area at the

bridge in the centre of town adds definition and colour to the centre of the town. A couple of properties namely Brennans and Gerard McCool's could do with a freshen up. Work on a property at the end of the town is on going & Kelvon House at the top of the town is for sale, but these are the few that have been shown up all the more by the high standard of their neighbouring properties.

### **Landscaping:**

Overall Landscaping in Glenties is excellent. Private houses have mature and attractive gardens. All green areas within the town and the estates have been maximized and the additions of Water fountains/features is very impressive. The Housing Estates Ard McGill, Dr. McCloskey, Ard Patrick, and Ard Connell are excellent and to a very high standard with regard to maintaining the houses and the extent of landscaping and planting that has taken place. Areas such as The Park at Ard McGill are spectacular & most importantly in utilising the natural slopes of the valley down to the river. It made me feel that I was in the heart of a rural Donegal but within a housing estate. The park at the top of the town is very well maintained and landscaped, also the picnic area/lay by in the centre of town with the stone walls were in keeping with the natural environs. With regard to the Grotto of Our Lady it could be made a little more attractive & colorful by adding a perfusion of wild flowers or pot plants as it has a prime location within the town. Signs at all approach roads were clear and visible and Bealacht na Gaeltachta walking routes were well sign posted also.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The area is rich in natural amenities and the Walkways are well sign posted, The committee's approach to protecting and enhancing the natural environs is commendable. The Museum and its display of mammals and fish local to the area was relevant and the video an interesting addition. It might be good to have a sign/plaque standing at the centre of town detailing the various walks and the natural amenities that are available in the area. Local knowledge is wonderful tool and it is always of interest where it can be highlighted and given a platform. Another suggestion is to get the local schools involved in Wildlife projects that can be included in the Museum. This would also help to educate the younger generations on all the area has to offer to both the locals and the visitors.

### **Litter Control:**

Standard of Litter control this year was excellent. I counted fourteen bins from the Museum to the top of the town, all were well maintained and emptied. There was no litter on the main street and I know that this is an ongoing battle with every town to eradicate the litter left behind by locals and visitors alike, but the focus and hard work in this area has paid off. The Housing estates and general public areas were also litter free. There is quite obviously a very strong emphasis on litter management for the town and it certainly is difficult to manage especially with late night social activity. I would commend at this time the high level of control and also of course stress the need for continuing, pro active action in maintaining this excellent and clean environment for Glenties.

### **Tidiness:**

Standards of tidiness are very good and all main public areas and walkways were clean and tidy. All buildings show a sense of pride in their maintenance and landscaping. The roads, walls and pathways were all clear. The hedge row cutting had taken place and all signs on the approach roads were clearly visible. It was noted that the Public Toilets need a little more attention and a freshen up in relation to paint work and there was also some weeding on the paving to the front of the Toilets. There are a few building projects in the town on going and this is an area that the Committee can impart some impact by asking the developers to keep the building areas as tidy and clutter free as possible and once work is finished to leave the sites in as completed state as possible. Overall the town is deemed very tidy.

## **Residential Areas:**

Private properties on the Narin road and the Glen road are to be commended on their high standard as with most of the private dwelling houses there is great attention to paint work and landscaping - a real sense of pride in the properties. The residential areas are also a very strong category in Glenties and the standard is quite remarkable in most. Ard McGill, Ard Patrick, Ard Connell and Dr. McCloskey Crescent were all very tidy, well looked after and visually good. The resurfacing at Ard McGill was completed and looked well. Ard Patrick still needs to be resurfaced. The detail in each as regards maintaining & developing the green belt areas within the estates and the abundance of planting of shrubs and flowers and extra details such as fountains and water features is to be commended.

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

The Main roads and approach roads were in good condition and looked well. Sign posting was visible and gave a good sense of order. There is a natural balance between greenery growth and maintenance and certainly Glenties strike the right balance in having the height of the hedge rows on approach rows just right with some new planting noted. Some resurfacing work in areas such as Ard Patrick needs to be completed, but overall there is a concerted effort going on to maintain all areas to a high standard.

## **General Impression:**

Glenties is one of the true gems of County Donegal. There is a drive and energy within the Tidy Town committee to achieve the best they can, they have obviously worked very hard and included and brought along the many various groups and organisations within the town to work together in a team effort for a better town for everyone. Even in torrential rain I had the opportunity to spend time in the Ard NaGill right down to meeting the geese & hens and seeing the Rhubarb and Kerr Pinks growing in trenches. It made me feel that I was in the heart of a rural Donegal but hard to believe I was actually within a housing estate. Glenties as described, is a perfect oasis among the moor-lands and mountains. There is no doubt that a lot of people in Glenties have put in a great effort to ensure that the town stays amongst the best in Ireland.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

Glenties looked as well cared for as ever on Second Adjudication Day - it is a town whose residents show an obvious pride in its appearance! Do ensure that you discourage advertising hoardings and flyposting, as these can give roadsides a rather cluttered appearance. A flaky house in the centre of Main Street created a bad impression, as the majority of buildings were very fresh. Do ensure that render is not removed from vernacular street houses which were always intended to be finished thus, and this is therefore incorrect from a conservation point of view. The blue bridge appeared flaky in places and will require repainting before next year's competition. The adjudicator was pleased to note that the gates of the magnificent Liam McCormack designed church had been repainted to their former glory. New fencing around the extremely green and well maintained playing pitch was admired, although it appeared to be closed on the day.