

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Greencastle**

Ref: **15**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **225**

Category: **B**

Date: **29/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	30	27
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>215</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The rolling development plan strategy that you have adopted is a very good approach both in terms of identifying the areas that need attention and setting targets. Of particular importance is the Northburgh Strategy. You appear to have established a good working relationship with Donegal County Council, FAS and the local business community, which is paying dividends in developing the village and the gradual elimination of problem areas.

### The Built Environment:

Maritime activities dominate the village. Public buildings such as the National Fisheries College, the Maritime Museum and the Irish Coastguard premises are presented to a high standard. The ferry port terminal looks very well and is nicely landscaped. Shops and pubs are well maintained. The impressive new Carrickaman apartment complex fits nicely into the locality. The Northburgh Castle strategy, which you are in the course of implementing, will make a significant contribution towards preserving an important part of the historical fabric of the village. There are a number of private houses, with well-maintained gardens, which add charm and character to the village. There is considerable maintenance and repair work being carried out, which is essential to the fishing industry. This type of activity, by its very nature, creates an unavoidable untidy atmosphere. You should encourage local commercial interests to implement a suitable enhancement programme, which would help to tidy up the village. In regard to this, you could possibly harness the creativity of local artists and community groups in using street furniture and ornamentation that reflects the

town's maritime and fishing focus.

### **Landscaping:**

You have implemented some of the targets that you set out in your plan. In particular, open spaces in the village are landscaped to a high standard, with some nice floral displays. There is a lovely fuchsia display opposite the harbour. The green area in front of the Museum and the village green are nicely tended. There is a well-developed shrubbery at the corner of Stroove road. The well-maintained private gardens and open spaces in residential areas show that residents take pride in their community. The excellently landscaped private garden across the road from the National fisheries college sets the standard.

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

Greencastle's proximity to the sea offers excellent opportunities for observing and protecting wild life. There is an abundance of flora and fauna in the area. The Foyle and its environs are home to a large and unique variety of sea life. You should erect information stands along the shore walk. This would help visitors and locals in achieving a better understanding of the ecosystem here and hopefully provide some form of protection against the threats that exist.

### **Litter Control:**

There was very little evidence of litter on the day of inspection. It was good to see that open areas as well as streets were maintained to such a high standard. You should continue to be vigilant to ensure that this high standard of litter control is maintained.

### **Tidiness:**

Overall the village presented a tidy appearance. However, the repair and maintenance work being carried out in the village, which is essential to the economic well-being of the fishing industry, creates a somewhat untidy appearance. As mentioned previously, you should sit down with the proprietors and seek to develop a strategy to deal with this challenge.

### **Residential Areas:**

Overall, the standard of maintenance of residential areas in Greencastle is quite good. Houses and gardens are presented to a high standard. It is obvious that individual homeowners and the community in general take pride in the appearance of their neighbourhood.

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

Roads through the village were well maintained. The traffic-calming project in front of the village green was noted, and it makes the area particularly attractive to pedestrians. Car parks are well laid out and contribute to the overall appearance. As mentioned last year, the area in front of the fort needs attention.

### **General Impression:**

Greencastle, with its major industry of fishing, combined with an abundance of natural and historical resources, incorporates many and diverse challenges in terms of the protection and enhancement of the village. Your committee has responded by creating a rolling plan that takes account of changes as they arise. This strategy is working for you, and you continue to make good progress in the Tidy Towns competition.