

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Narin**

Ref: **93**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **200**

Category: **A**

Date: **25/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	24	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	30	33
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	197

Overall Developmental Approach:

A lovely coastal location with naturally beautiful coastline, sand dunes and scenery, As with any coastal location, Narin has a challenge to keep a fine balance on the amount of building and development work being carried out and having that work in keeping with the natural and unspoiled environment. It is evident although the committee is small that there is a real commitment and drive with the members to retain this beautiful spot and to allow it's natural popularity and attraction as a coastal retreat to flourish and be enjoyed by the public but in a managed and appropriate way and not at the expense of the natural environment and the local residents. The map enclosed and information highlighting the problems in the area was helpful, though it would be beneficial to have an overall plan for Narin/Portnoo that would set clear objectives over a specific period that can be worked to and where results can be evident to all. It would also appear that if another two members could be recruited it would be beneficial to assist with the work load, as it would be difficult I'm sure with only three members to try to do everything.

The Built Environment:

There has been quite a lot of building and new development of private houses especially along the higher and lower coastal roads, most of these properties have a nice appearance and are built to a high specification but they would appear to be for the most part holiday home residences but most gardens are nicely landscaped. The new estate as you enter Narin on the right is finished off nicely, the Church of Ireland is well maintained with the picnic area across from the church a nice addition.

The main Shop and Public House Andy's Bar are maintained well. Some properties are in need of work being carried out or need to be demolished like The Old Portnoo Hotel, Doune Cottage where work is on going and some private houses need general attention and maintenance, notably properties on the road across from Annora's.

Landscaping:

Visually it would be nice where appropriate to enclose the areas of mobile homes with some greenery or fencing that would make the line of vision especially to the sea more attractive. The picnic area across from the Church could add some shrubs and flowers to the area to make it all the more attractive. The main Bar and Shop could add some hanging baskets or pot plants to the front to add to the entrance to Narin, it is difficult for some private houses or seasonal homes to have the time and resources to plant but where natural & hardy plants and flowers that grow well in the environs can be planted it would greatly add to the area - the new estate as you enter could do with some color.

The grass verge down at the Public toilets could do with cutting. Some of the Private gardens are lovely and have success with growing plants and shrubs that withstand the sea & salt air climate, they add to the natural beauty of the area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is an abundance of natural and wild life amenities in this coastal blue flag beach area, and it would be ideal to highlight them and detail them by either plaques or signs, possibly down at the beach front regarding birds, fish & sea life that are unique to this shoreline. For further development in time to look at possibly marking a coastal walk that will combine country scenery with coastal scenery starting in Narin and ending in Portnoo.

Litter Control:

As identified on the report there is a problem area with litter down at the beach front.

I noted two full white plastic bags lying beside the public bins and bins themselves were stuffed and overflowing with refuse. It would appear that the litter was not a problem stemming from individual beach users but appeared to have been directly brought to the bin area and left at the beach front. Certainly the committee would need to look at resources and see how they can best tackle this problem, and possibly notices highlighting the problem and consequences of littering could be erected in an appropriate place or sent to all residents. Overall Narin presented a generally litter free area except for the beach front area. The Bottle bank area is an addition and was generally well maintained.

Tidiness:

It can be difficult to achieve a concerted effort or front where ongoing building work and house development is occurring and where the nature and balance of houses are holiday homes, but in Narin aside from spots here and there which I've highlighted there was an overall appearance of tidiness.

Residential Areas:

The private houses along the main road and on the back roads are for the most part well maintained and attractively landscaped, there are a few properties that would need attention re: paint work and a general tidying up to the front of the houses. Where construction is taking place it is important that the developers leave the site as tidy and finished as possible. The range of properties from older houses to new houses is quite balanced and the newer buildings are built to a high standard. With regard to Mobile Homes this area of residence is quite well maintained at the moment and could do with some screening so as to not detract from the views, again due to the seasonality of the mobile homes it is an area for the committee to keep an eye on.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some of the approach and back roads between Narin and Portnoo have pot holes and would need resurfacing work carried out. Some of the roadside verges would need clearing and cutting back and a general tidy. The attractive stone walls are in keeping with the natural environment and define and mark the roads well, the stone walls are attractive at the mobile home site as well.

General Impression:

Narin Portnoo has an abundance of natural beauty and coastal landscape which defines the area as a popular resort. The increased visitor numbers in the summer months is an added area of work for the committee and to achieve and maintain good progress there needs to be many hands on board. Narin has a lot to offer and the balance so far is being kept between development and restoration, I wish the committee well with their future endeavors and hope that they are able to secure some new members to assist in their worthy efforts.