

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardara**

Ref: **472**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **186**

Category: **C**

Date: **28/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	22	24
Landscaping	40	21	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	18	10
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	186	179

Overall Developmental Approach:

Our thanks for your 2005 entry. We well noted your concern arising from the services works being undertaken at present. They and the planning proposals you have clearly are making it difficult for you. None the less good work in clearly evident and with the restoration of street services etc. you will come back into serious competition. In fact you must use this as a catalyst for your future progress.

The Built Environment:

We noted your concern re planning issues. It was good to see continual improvement on the Diamond. That said, the vacant building beside the Heritage Centre together with the derelict ones opposite are detracting greatly from your efforts. The Donegal Dairy property is very poor and I was concerned at the Kennedys of Ardrara building and its frontage onto Charlie Bennett Drive. The Churches were all well presents although the Hall on the Woodhill road requires attention. Among the commercial properties noted were the BeeHive Bar, Nesbitts, Triona and the Chemists on the Diamond. Nancys and the Campbell property are beginning to age and will be problematic by next year.

Landscaping:

The natural advantage of the river was not possible to adjudicate with the ongoing works. It really is the key to future marks in this section. The Diamond was delightful and the bedding there is maturing very nicely. The hanging baskets on the Bridge greatly redeemed the other difficulties and were very attractive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The very appropriate signage naming the rivers as you approach the town were noted. Unfortunately the street approach to the Drumbarron Lane was badly marred by litter reducing its appeal as a natural amenity. A number of signs for the Long Point Country Walk were noted. The restoration of the river bed and banks will be a challenge over the coming years, but one where very valuable points may be achieved.

Litter Control:

The main streets of the town were free of litter on the day of adjudication. Some was noted in the newly cut grassed area of Drumaghy Park.

Tidiness:

The ongoing street works clearly mitigate against you doing well in this category this year. However with the attractive presentation of so many commercial buildings and the neatness of church yards etc. you are holding your own overall. Some untidiness was noted at the Bottle Bank on the Glenties Road. This was balanced by the excellent presentation of the Autoparts complex nearby, colourful with flowers on a very difficult site and product mix.

Residential Areas:

It was good to note that you were encouraging the residents of Ard Chonail to cooperate. Some progress is already made; the attractive wall boxes were noted! Both here and Drumaghy have many fine private houses showing individual effort. Try and turn that into a better effort on the open areas; they were well planted with good grass, nice trees etc. but no real effort to keep them looking good. Charlie Bennet Drive is crying out for colour: doors, window boxes, public planting. A lovely little development that its residents should celebrate!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were generally good. Back areas are still in development. The Football Field and Wood Hill roads had many private houses that were very well kept. The latter had two lovely flowering gardens. The Wood Hill Resource Centre was also noted. The Football Field itself was a credit to the club. Surrounded by road works etc. it was spotless. Well done GAA!

General Impression:

This is a community that is coping very well with major urban disruption. Ensure that the road surfaces are prioritized and completed. On the back of that you can carry your town much further in the Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for persevering!