

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Brockagh-Cloghan**

Ref: **436**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **211**

Category: **A**

Date: **29/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	211	206

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your Five Year Plan, progress report and maps. These were much appreciated by the adjudicator. Brockagh-Cloghan Development Group with assistance from the local authority through the Village Renewal Scheme, the Parish Council, ESB, Eircom, An Roinn Éalainn Oidhreacht Gaeltachta & Óileann and most importantly the Community Employment Scheme has done a lot to improve the overall presentation of the area. Your participation in this competition along with the Baile Beo Awards should entice the local community and hopefully encourage a proactive approach to the tidy towns effort.

The Built Environment:

Brockagh-Cloghan is located overlooking the River Finn and at the base of the Blue Stack Mountains. Derelict buildings and a number of corrugated tin roof buildings overshadow your efforts under this heading. The owner of the shed opposite the Ramblers Inn is congratulated for repairs to the roof. I appeal to others to do the same. Some road signs are not visible. Putting overhead cables underground from the Ramblers Inn to the Bridge on Fintown Rd as well as the street lighting on the Moneen road is very welcome. The completion of this for the entire village as well as the removal of the telegraph poles will greatly improve the street scape. The use of stone walls is attractive and should be further encouraged. Where possible access gates to farm land should be well presented and ideally made of timber. The Issac Butt Heritage Centre is well maintained and a nice focal point on the Ballybofey approach.

Landscaping:

The area close to the Ramblers Inn looked well, with roses, stone wall, and trees overlooking the valley below, however, some weeds were visible and containers would be better if painted. Some private houses are making great efforts with nicely landscaped gardens, hanging baskets, window boxes and attention to boundary areas. There are some nicely maturing trees on the Fintown approach. Some picnic tables in the lay-by on this approach with it's ideal viewing point would entice visitors to spend some time in the area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The planting of native trees and the hedge row along the Moneen Road is commended. Due to its unique location Brockagh-Cloghan has the potential to do extremely well in this section. A sub committee should now be formed guided by local wildlife and angling experts to firstly identify local wildlife and natural amenities, then formulate an achievable plan for the next five years. Increasing awareness and appreciation of wildlife and local amenities through the schools and community groups should be an integral part of this campaign. A wildlife trail with picnic tables, information boards and other amenities would greatly enrich the area for residents and entice otherwise passing visitors to stop and spend sometime in Brockagh-Cloghan.

Litter Control:

Your clean up campaign in conjunction with the local authority and efforts to encourage residents as well as visitors to be aware of litter has ensured that there was only incidental litter visible on adjudication day. The provision of new seating and bins through out the village are a great investment for the community. Well done to all concerned. On-going monitoring and maintenance of these is now essential to ensure the high standard presentation of street furniture at all times.

Tidiness:

While the village had a relatively tidy appearance minor issues such as weeds at fore court of Top Petrol Station, old farm machinery, rusted gates are preventing progress under this heading. Weeds on top of some stone walls detract from the overall presentation of these beautifully craft structures. An untidy lay-by opposite Isaac Butt Heritage Centre where road works material appear to be stored should be moved elsewhere. The bottle bank area was untidy and the road surface in this area was in bad condition. The old petrol pumps should be removed.

Residential Areas:

Some good examples of well kept houses and gardens, with freshly cut lawns, window boxes, hanging baskets and good use of colour were visible throughout the village. Stone walls are a special feature of Brockagh-Cloghan and make good use of the plentiful local stone. The committee in cooperation with the local authority should be proactive in ensuring that all new properties are in keeping with the rural environment of Brockagh-Cloghan. The use of indigenous material, plants etc should be encourage where possible. Your work in encouraging home owners to present and maintain their properties to a high standard is commended. The improvement in some boundary areas and the increase in the number of trees being planted is a positive sign for the future.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The surface of the through road is good and the footpath, when completed will add greatly to the overall presentation of Brockagh-Cloghan. Verges on both approach roads were trimmed and well maintained. Work on the footpaths from the Isaac Butt Heritage Center to the telephone exchange on the Ballybofey Road was in progress on adjudication day. Back areas of the Top Petrol Station, the Mart and some other buildings need to be screen off. Additional coordinated signage particularly

for local amenities is desirable.

Continue to work in partnership with the local authority to achieve progress under this heading.

General Impression:

Your five year plan and work programme for 2006 is well presented and realistic. The full support of the local community is now required to address issues raised in this and previous reports. Well done on achievements to date.