Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Buncrana** Ref: **248**

County: **Donegal** Mark: **233**

Category: **D** Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	37	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	29	27
Litter Control	40	20	20
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	**300**	**233**	**223**

Overall Developmental Approach:

In recent years the Tidy Towns Committee has influenced greatly the enhancement of Buncrana, a town that has potential to do well in the National tidy Towns Competition.

There is an obvious commitment on the part of Buncrana to maintain high standards of overall presentation and this is reflected in an increase in marks again this year.

Attention to detail is now required if you are to achieve further progress and your Tidy Towns Development Plan is critical in this regards - it is well presented and outlines the specific tasks required.

Thank you for your completed application form and maps - both were of great assistance to the adjudicator.

The Built Environment:

Buncrana was looking very presentable on adjudication day and it was nice to see a Town so busy with locals and tourists. The fire station provides a lovely focal point on entry to the Town and is maintained to a high standard, the screening of the area surrounding the Tourist office was also noted. Many developments were noted and most noteworthy is the area surrounding Lidli the brightly colored shop fronts and tidily presented car park all contribute to a user friendly

environment. Other premises of note are the Credit Union, Irish Nationwide and O Flaibeartaig Public House.

The area around Eurospar was very untidy and the derelict buildings at the old Post Office require some attention, the adjudicator is aware of the Committee's, commitment to solving this problem. The area surrounding the pier unused material creates a untidy impression.

Landscaping:

Buncrana marks highly under this heading and deservedly so, congratulations on the appointment of a new assistant Gardener. The flower displays on the entrance to Buncrana and on the Aileagh Road provide a wonderful array of color - well done to all concerned on the Fáilte sign, which is a lovely welcome to the Town. It is good to see local company involvement in the sponsorship of flower displays.

The Tidy towns Committee have carried out extensive tree planting this year on the Cockhill Road, adjacent to the Fruit of the Loom and St. Oran's Road, keep this programme up - you are planting for future generations.

The flower tubs at the stone jug and the area surrounding the Angling Centre are presented to a high standard. The entrance to O' Doherty's fort also had a beautiful array of of roses. The square at Mc Callin's Bar in the centre of town and the grounds of the Catholic Church are also nicely presented.

A good performance under this heading is again rewarded.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Riverside Walk and Swan Park provide a wonderful amenity for all concerned under this heading. The adjudicator commends highly the innovative idea of the Butterfly Park -what a wonderful project. The information sign for the Butterfly Park was missing on day of adjudication but it was good to note from information supplied that plans are under way to update it.
It was nice to see young people being encouraged to take an interest in wildlife through the Wildlife School Workshop - well done. Buncrana Angling Centre and the entrance to O' Doherty's Keep would be ideal location for information on the flora and fauna in the area. There is also good use of information boards at the Ferry Terminal and in Swan Park,The Festival Park on shore front provides an excellent facility for children and is lovely and bright.

Litter Control:

As already mentioned there was litter at Eurospar and litter was very visible outside Supervalu. The Festival Park was heavily littered but it was good to see the litter warden hard at work - the fact that the amusements were in this area was taken into consideration.

Your clean ups have been noted - remain vigilant under this heading.

Tidiness:

Good all round presentation is the norm except for a small number of unoccupied premises. The area around the Natural Health Centre which is currently under construction will be most welcome when completed. Signs for business are very ad hoc an a more uniform approach should be adopted. The Ulster Bank and the Bank of Ireland required a fresh coat of paint, do try to encourage businesses to become more involved through the 'Best Kept Shop Front Awards'.

Residential Areas:

What an array of beautifully maintained private gardens. Westbrook Gardens is nicely maintained

with houses in this road presenting well Your competition for Best Kept housing estates is noteworthy, Cluain Mhuaire presented well as did Cockhill Park. The picnic amenity at Cockhill Park is most welcome as an amenity for both locals and tourists, although the phone box there was in need of some attention. Mulberry Avenue will be a welcome addition when completed and it was good to see trees being used as such a prominent feature. Do encourage more residental areas to become involved, with the support and advice of the Town gardener you can achieve higher marks in this area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Re-surfacing of Carndonagh road is required. Most roads however presented well with the Derry approach road being the most impressive. however some side streets in the town centre do need attention.

Your progress under this heading is steady.

General Impression:

Performing well and further progress is achievable with support from Donegal County Council , business and private sectors.

Second Round Adjudication:

Buncrana enjoys an enviable location on the shores of Lough Swilly against a backdrop of low hills affording panoramic scenic views. The town is experiencing rapid expansion from the core out and it was a pleasure to note new side streets created by three storey buildings to complement the existing building stock. The town looked well on the day of second adjudication despite the fact of numerous development sites with construction work in progress.

Litter control was good with small lapses noted outside of Brennans Pharmacy, in the car-park at the beach and on the nearby greens; this has not lost you marks this year but may do so in the future if allowed to continue.

Landscaping was admired and must be amongst the best anywhere in the country; a good balance has been achieved between permanent planting and seasonal bedding plants.
Well done on your wild life seminars and on the Butterfly survey / park initiative.

The new Lidl store and car-park looks well.