

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bundoran**

Ref: **620**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **211**

Category: **C**

Date: **27/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	27	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	17
Litter Control	40	33	29
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	22	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	211	213

Overall Developmental Approach:

Bundoran has many challenges; weekend influx, very busy main street filled with through traffic (for now) , very extended and lengthy layout. It is dealing with these very well and the business and residential community are to be congratulated. It is also clear that the Town Council is very active at the front end of tidyness and litter etc.

It is disappointing to note then, that despite the progress, the Tidy Towns committee is down to two! How much more could be achieved if there was greater integration through the committee of estates, commerce and local authority.

A detailed map of the town naming terraces, streets etc. would be most helpful together with a plan of the work undertaken for the year.

The bye-pass will change the dynamic greatly and allow much progress be made especially in the West End. Much of last years report remains unchnsged and many things therein still require attention.

The Built Environment:

Central Bundoran has greatly improved over recent year with the Main Street being transformed, the development of Atlantic Way and the public buildings area; Library etc. The new Pharmacy was

noted as a fine challenging piece of contemporary architecture giving a good example to future developers.

The West End remains problematic with the old church and many buildings derelict or neglected. It must be hoped that the bye-pass will help the west End catch up on the centre area in prosperity and appearance.

The Summerhill complex with its vacant appearance to Main St is disappointing. Nearby Dartry View Caravan Pk is an excellent example of a good entry that other caravan park owners in the town should be moved to copy!

The Fire Station , the Library and the Public Health offices were very well presented.

Landscaping:

It is mystifying how little planting is undertaken in Bundoran. Good rose beds were noted in the Library area, excellent hanging baskets on O'Connells and the Grand Central Hotel and lovely arums in a private garden at Drumacrin . Beyond that every estate cried out for planting and colour. Very few private houses had colour either. The entrance to the estate on the Kinlough Rd. was very well planted and , if cared for, should mature nicely over coming years.

This is an aspect that the Tidy Towns Committee should really tackle. Invite even one estate to become a 'pilot' project, put some technical help in place (a local garden centre might be willing) and see if little by little progress can be spread throughout the community.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A Nature reserve sign was noted on the Drumacrin Road ...can this be formalised and developed? In addition the banks to the rear of the Holyrood were very untidy and were they improved could make for a very suitable linear flora and fauna walk.

The lighting of the Rougey Walk was noted and this improved accessibility is to be commended.

Again an active Tidy Towns Committee can do much to gain marks in this section

Litter Control:

For a very busy visitor location Bundoran central was excellently presented on the day of adjudication. Remarkably there was no litter problem on Main St, Atlantic Way, Waterworld or the Library area...very well done and congratulations to the Town Council. Both Elaghmore and Drumacrin were litter free. A small amount was noted in Bogtown Est

Tidiness:

Tidiness covers many aspects and Bundoran had problems in this area. The approach roads with a proliferation of signage and empty infill sites looks untidy. the rear of Kearns Lane, the Star of the Sea , the O'Gorman Arms site (all mentioned in last years report) remain major eyesores. A number of houses in the West End and at the north end of the main St require painting. The Astoria Complex was untidy and will be a problem in 2006.

Residential Areas:

The comments above re planting reflect directly in this category also. Every estate cried out for planting and colour. While many are very tidy they appear dull. The only memorable splash of colour was on the front doors on the Tullan Strand Rd estate. The lovely boat sculpture in Elaghmore was noted. The regency style terrace of houses in the West End was looking good. One house in Newtown Tce. was very nicely presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Many of the side roads and the estate roads are in need of repaving and appear unsightly at present. The Atlantic Way and Library areas were very good as was the Main street. Its to be hoped that this central investment by the Town Council will now be continued in the residential areas.

General Impression:

Bundoran is well served by the Town Council and the business community. If progress in the competition is to be sustained a serious involvement of the residential community will have to be achieved. The town has improved enormously for visitors...it should achieve the same for its residents.