

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carraig Airt**

Ref: **81**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **256**

Category: **B**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	46
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	26
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	18	16
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	256	249

Overall Developmental Approach:

Carraig Airt is a small but busy holiday village situated on the shores of Mulroy Bay at the mouth of the Rosguill Peninsula surrounded by sandhills and woodland.

The residents of Carraig Airt are very fortunate to have such a hard working committee, who explore to the full, all avenues of assistance both practical and financial available and have a very focused approach to their existing 5 year plan now drawing to a close. The Village Renewal Programme has been a great asset to Carraig Airt. Their excellent working relationship with the Local Authority is evident in the support material forwarded with the entry form and in the physical improvements of Carraig Airt. A plan for 2006 - 2012 incorporating objectives not achieved in the last plan and a new work programme are now a priority to ensure the continued interest of those involved and progress in this competition.

The Built Environment:

The hard work and negotiations which went into the redevelopment of the area surrounding the Monument has been very worthwhile. Well done to all concerned. The provision of a footpath opposite the Carraig Airt Hotel and alongside the Monument is very welcome. Both Churches were again well maintained. Joy's, Sheephaven Credit Union and Carraig Airt Hotel were nicely presented and eye-catching.

The carpark down by the shore with its ornamental light fixture and well presented bins is very convenient for those wishing to spend some time in nearby Strand Park. The completed coastal

erosion wall is very attractive and finished to a very high standard. A number of empty or neglected buildings along the Main Street detract from the overall high standard of the built environment in the village.

Landscaping:

The high standard of landscaping, planters, new trees, hanging baskets and color throughout the village is a credit to all involved. Strand Park is a little piece of haven tucked away from the busy main street behind the terraced buildings overlooking Mulroy Bay. The Park with beautifully matured and manicured lawns, colorful shrubbery, seating areas, paths, arch, tubs, picnic areas, bird tables and now the ramped access for disabled persons all surrounded by a stone wall is truly exceptional. Although sign posted the access road is hard to locate and double parking by commercial vehicles along the narrow access road would need to be addressed. The water pump and beds of flowers on Creeslough approach are a lovely touch.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The sub committee leading out on progress under this heading are commended for the berry producing trees, shrubs in Stand Park and the decaying tree stumps placed in the park to encourage insects. The work of Carraig Airt National School in planting some broad leaf trees and their commitment to tending the garden and flower beds at the road side is also noted. I was disappointed to read that a permanent exhibition of wild life information gathered is not possible at this time. The wealth of knowledge contained in the survey by Robert and Joy Bunchanan is both entertaining and informative and should be shared. Using this local expertise in the form of a nature trail with information boards sponsored by local businesses may be worth considering.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good on adjudication day considering how busy the village was. Well presented and appropriate bins were evident and in use throughout the village. Incidental litter was visible, however, in some housing estates namely Radharc an Oileain and Mulroy Park. The recycling area and surrounding car park was clean and tidy. I am pleased to note that your proactive approach has succeeded in getting the Local Authority to do two collections each week in the summer. Your members commitment is highly commended.

Tidiness:

The streetscape has greatly improved with overhead wires now underground. Unfortunately, vacant properties such as "An Bia Blasta" and "Paul Mickey's" take away from an otherwise positive impression of Carraig Airt. The practice of displaying produce on the footpath gives a clutter appearance. Some properties along the Main Street were freshly painted, however, attention to gutters and boundary areas is required at a number of properties. I can appreciate that the issue of double yellow lines is a sensitive one for retailers, however, traffic management and parking facilities need to be addressed if the overall character and atmosphere of the village is to be preserved for both residents and visitors. Hopefully a mutually agreeable solution can be found. Heavy machinery along the Creeslough road in front of a residential property is untidy and detracts from the overall welcoming effect of floral containers in this area.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas both individual and estates were generally well maintained with some nicely presented gardens on approach roads making good use of color, indigenous shrubs, trees and well kept lawns. On the Figart Road 'Taobh Cnoic' with it's stone walls and a variety of colorful plants was admired by the adjudicator. Mulroy View was again well maintained. Radharc na Oilean is still in need of urgent attention. Some premises along the Main Street would benefit from some fresh paint and attention to boundary areas

and gutters. A number of premises are making good use of hanging baskets, containers and window boxes. A special effort should be made to preserve the terraced style properties along the Main Street which are a unique feature of Carraig Airt.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The newly planted trees on Creeslough approach are a lovely introduction to the village. Some school signs need replacing and some directional signs need cleaning. Carraig Airt Hotel are to be congratulated on tarring the adjacent car park as mentioned in last year's report. Some side streets and back areas need to be tidied up and in some cases resurfaced. Bilingual signage throughout the village is very attractive. Encourage residents to also support this initiative when choosing house or business names etc. Hedges and verges along the Downings and Milford roads were well maintained. The area of the Petrol Station and Mevagh Dive Centre looked well. The adjudicator was pleased to learn from your submission to Roinn na Gaeltachta and Donegal County Council to upgrade road surfaces, something which is urgently required specially around the Park area.

General Impression:

Your ongoing commitment to improving the environs of Carraig Airt by raising awareness of conservation, wildlife, heritage and culture is highly commended. As mentioned previously a new plan is now required focusing on the challenges ahead. Attention to detail will be necessary to sustain high standards to date. An achievable vision of Carraig Airt in 2012 which all stakeholders can aspire to should be your goal. I have no doubt that your committee with the support of the community, local authority and residents can achieve new levels of success in this competition.

Second Round Adjudication:

Carraig Airt looked wonderful on the day of second adjudication and was being enjoyed by many visitors. Buildings were once again presented to a high standard and it was a pleasure to note that the Paul Micekys premises is still trading, hopefully An Bia Blasta will soon be back in business; perhaps a more orderly arrangement can be established for goods on display on the footpath outside of the Centra premises.

The display board of wild birds was admired and is of course informative; has consideration been given to developing local walks to Sli Na Slainte standards?

Litter control was strong and there was an overall appearance of tidiness in the village so it was surprising to note large scale dumping of builders rubble on the shoreline near the small park since our first visit; whoever is responsible for this ought to have it removed as a matter of urgency.

The roadside boundary wall of the graveyard opposite the church remains weather-stained.

Work accomplished at the cross monument looks beautiful, congratulations.