

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glenties**

Ref: **557**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **276**

Category: **C**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	37	36
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	26
Litter Control	40	39	38
Tidiness	20	17	18
Residential Areas	30	30	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	34
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	276	272

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your pleasure at last years enthusiastic report made it difficult for this adjudicator! Thank you for the exceptional and very helpful notes to the application. It really helps when you supply this sort of detail and makes it even more pleasing to find the work done as planned!

It was some years since this adjudicator last judged your challenging town and you were not found wanting!

The Built Environment:

The continued pride in your main street, the commercial/industrial landscape and how it sits in the Donegal countryside is apparent. On the day of adjudication new paths were being layed at the Courthouse, the toilets (mentioned in 2004) were being painted , the Yellow Bridge was getting a new coat and Paddys Bar was turning even brighter white!

Areas for concern remain: The striking three story grey building on the Main Street id becoming very down at heel; the famous Limelight may be a problem for 2006 and the gable of the Community Hall needed painting.

Our attention was drawn to the back sheds/yards. These have always intrigued me in Glenties. I am glad to say they were neatly kept, serving their domestic and retail demands very well...mind them

... they are part of the character of your town.

Landscaping:

Beautiful colour abounds...be it on the main street , the public grounds or the private gardens on approach roads and in estates.

Ard McGill and Ard Patrick are excellent. i was delighted to see individuality express everywhere here...different walls, differing colour, different style...yet all harmonious i the overall. The landscaped banks at Ard Patrick are maturing wonderfully ... they need completion to achieve a national award however. The Golden Jubilee gazebo at Ard Patrick is a wow...beautifully chosen and adorned...what a great place to be a part of!

When last I saw Dr McCloskey Cresecent it was new and fairly barren. It is now an oasis of beauty, on the day of adjudication many young people planting and developing the front beds while the older folk sat in the sun and enjoyed sheltered but cared-for old age.

Also noted were the Garda Barracks...a positive exception to many other locations. The grounds of the National School and the Parochial House both seemed a little neglected over other years and local standards.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The approach to Glenties alerts you to its setting, from the naming of the rivers, to the signposting of the Ownea beats, to the proliferation of country walk signs you know you are in a rural place that awaits exploration. I was delighted to discover the Rock ring road (lane!) and the lovely countryside. This together with the Tullyard and the Glen Road (and no doubt others) makes the access to wildlife and nature immediate for the local and visitor alike. the community needs to protect them and ensure that only suitable and sustainable development takes place on them. A simple flora and fauna signposting project could be undertaken by the local schools identifying tree types, grasses etc....this would serve to encourage local appreciation while highlighting the value of them to all.

Litter Control:

Litter was simply not a problem. How good to see bins, just full (ie used) but not overflowing. Well done.

Tidiness:

This is a category that a high achieving place like Glenties can be easily faulted in...when you are nearly perfect the tiny things count.

The Bottle Bank at the Rock was excellent...a grass covered shed nearby highlighted the negative. The Rock area itself was lovely, the older houses maturing wonderfully, the newer appearing to my eye as very appropriate...the negative was the untidy builders rubble and yard nearby.

Also the red roof garage opp the Catholic Church , while orderly, does not make a full contribution to the category of "tidiness" for instance.

Equally the Northern Fisheries Board offices were in need of tidiness.

Residential Areas:

There is no better expression of Glenties-The Place than the exceptional housing estates and private houses which make up your community. All the estates were beautifully turned out and clearly very proud of their contribution to the community effort. Private housing on the approach roads, within the town was equally good. special mention this year to a private house on the Glen road with

exceptional shrubbery, the row of cottages further out that are simple but charming and a lovely trough display at Cottage opp Ard McGill.

The protective tree railing were noted at Ard McGill...well done in the face of children and the wind!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were still June-ly blossoming on the day of the first adjudication. With increased fauna awareness this will be an increasing feature. None the less Welcome signage etc. needs to be clear of vegetation etc. and this was not the case on many of the approaches. Also new beds were being constructed around welcome signs on the Letterkenny road at a time when they should have been established or part of 2006 programme.

The Famine Monument was somewhat neglected with a great promise of dockins within days. The nearby tennis court fencing needed replacement.

General Impression:

Glenties has the community spirit that makes it a key player in every Annual Tidy Towns Competition. It is clear that despite changes in committee , the impact of the Celtic Tiger, the fall off (elsewhere) in volunteerism that your community stays together and is really proud of where it lives. The devil is in the detail and the fruits of 2005 will come in the second adjudication when some/all of the (few) negative issues above may have been resolved.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a pleasure to note improvements to the built environment since our first visit in June; the Community Centre was beautifully painted and other premises looked well also, the Chemist premises was especially admired. The rear facade of Kelvan / Glenmore House should be painted as it is highly visible from the Dungloe approach road.

The notice board on the route of the Alter Walk with related environmental information was appreciated as were the outbursts of wild flowers on the road to the sports grounds, it was good to note that the entrance to the latter was so nicely presented.

Litter control was excellent on the day of second adjudication; the streets were litter free (with the exception of one instance of dog litter), a soft drink bottle and a paper cup was noted on the river bed and some late night revellers had left their bottles and cans neatly piled on a table in the park, bless them! The Gum Free poster in the window of the Pharmacy is a nice touch and appears to be effective, the young person responsible for it is to be thanked.

Hopefully new residents to Glenties will become involved in the Tidy Towns movement and be as committed to your lovely town as existing residents. It is a pleasure to know that the Glenties Tidy Towns chairman is fully recovered and back to Tidy Towns work.