

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Greencastle**

Ref: **161**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **229**

Category: **B**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	13	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>225</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The picturesque village of Geencastle was nicely presented and most welcoming on adjudication day. You are complimented on work to date, however, there is still a lot more work to be done.

The committee is commended on the fact that the plan is revised annually and that they respond to changes that occur within the community as they arise. You now have a clear focus as to what direction you should take and a coordinated campaign should improve significantly your future status in the National tidy Towns Competition.

### The Built Environment:

Again the built environment of Greencastle was most appealing and represented in many ways the unique and historical landscape. Mc. Laughlins Bar and Kealy's Bar had nice floral displays and are nicely maintained as is Scoil Colmcille and the National Fishery College.

As mentioned in last year report Northburgh Castle will be of advantage under this heading when completed. The area around the Maritime Museum provides lovely focal point for the approaching ferry and the Maritime Memorial provides a beautiful presented feature. It was nice to see tourists arriving of the Ferry.

Some attention needs to be given to the unused material around the pier although the artwork on

the gavel of the P.E.C.C. building is beautiful. The grounds of the Fish Processing Factory are untidy and in need of attention.

Attention to detail is now required under this area.

### **Landscaping:**

Many colorful window boxes and flower tubes were noted around the village and more are needed to impact extensively on the streetscape. The Maritime Museum is nicely presented as is the area around the Maritime Museum and the Coastguard Cottages.

The picnic area on the Merville approach road provides an excellent amenity and is maintained to a high standard. The links have also been landscaped to a high standard. Slí na Slainte walk is nicely maintained but do take care of benches along route - some are in need of attention. Private gardens in some individual houses were also well presented and the area around the Ferry Port enhances greatly the environmental presentation of the village.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The information signs in the village and at the Ferry Terminal - provide some assistance under this heading.

You have much of the work done in this area a guide to Greencastle to would be good to get this information displayed on the walk or at the Ferry Terminal , where I believe a new waiting area is planned.. This is an area where Greencastle has to the potential to increase your marks due the excellent opportunities the sea offers.

### **Litter Control:**

There was no litter on the village street although the area around the recycling bins was very untidy with a lot of litter present. There was also litter present in the picnic area adjacent to the green. Remain vigilant in this area in order to retain the high marks already achieved in this area.

### **Tidiness:**

As already stated be watchful of the area surrounding the bottle bank, the Pier and the Fish Factory. The adjudicator is fully aware that this is the nature of the industry but as suggested in last year liaise with the proprietors and to develop a strategy to deal with this. In your work programme for next year give a priority rating to tidiness.

### **Residential Areas:**

Residential properties were again well presented and many individual houses on the outskirts of the village were attractively presented and landscaped .

The links residential estate is finished to an exceptional high standard and much though has gone into the landscaping - the adjudicator commends highly the playground facility available within this estate. This is an excellent example of what other housing estates should aspire to.

The Coastguard Cottages are nicely maintained as is the apartment complex in the centre of the village. The Atlantic Reach and the 2 new developments are awaited with interest, the committee should ensure that they are completed in line with the requirements of the planning authority and to a high standard of landscaping.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach roads were tidily presented with neatly trimmed verges. The footpath on the Golf Club road was overgrown and in need of attention. The area around the bottle banks is untidy - the

committee should look at screening of this area. Overall the village is maintained to a good standard.

### **General Impression:**

Attention to detail is now a priority to expedite progress with a view to being a serious contender for a regional or National Award.

You have an excellent relationship with state agencies and this is benefiting you.

Another good performance this year congratulations.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Congratulations on the publication " A Guide To Greencastle " which is interesting, informative and beautifully illustrated; the brochure for the Inishowen Maritime Museum and Planetarium has been noted also and this important heritage destination has been considered for the National Heritage Award.

The built environment is presented to a generally high standard and both the Maritime Museum and St. Colmcilles School were admired together with the Coastguard Cottages.

Landscaping is maturing well throughout the village and newly planted areas at the Ferry Departure point were noted, they should make a strong visual next year.

Litter control was not quite as good as in previous years, marks have not yet been lost but this may happen next year if the situation is not addressed; tidiness was not good, weed growth was rampant along kerbs and at the base of attractive stone walls; the Bring Bank was especially untidy with dumping of bags noted, indeed the entire site was untidy with bits and pieces of derelict machinery.