

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Narin**

Ref: **524**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **205**

Category: **A**

Date: **24/06/2005**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 35 | 35 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 29 | 28 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 24 | 24 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 22 | 22 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 32 | 30 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 22 | 21 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 21 | 20 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 205 | 200 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for the completed questionnaire and map which were greatly appreciated by the adjudicator. As mentioned in last year's report an overall 3/5 year plan for Narin Portnoo with an annual work programme is now essential to progress in this competition.

The Tidy Towns Committee needs to be actively supported by the community's permanent and seasonal residents if it is to achieve it's potential in this competition.

As a popular seaside resort it is important that Narin Portnoo maintains the balance between development and conservation of it's natural amenities. Liaise with state agencies such as Coillte, An Taisce, relevant Government Departments, local authority and all local stakeholders to ensure your plan has the support and backing of all concerned.

The Built Environment:

The new traffic island and stone wall enroute to the beach is nearly complete. It is important that when work is finished all material is removed. The new seat at the beach front was in great demand on adjudication day, the provision of a few more should be considered. The car park, toilets and bottle banks were all well presented. An information board about Inniskeel Island and access information would be useful to visitors. A number of water pumps were noted throughout the area which could become a feature if presented properly. The Church of Ireland was again looking well. The Narin Inn appeared to be newly painted, however, the nearby car park and surrounding area

was untidy. Hanging baskets, window boxes and containers should be encouraged for all public buildings as mentioned in last year's report. Construction work continues at various locations with the storage of building material and presentation of sites still giving cause for concern.

Landscaping:

Some individual gardens are nicely landscaped with well kept lawns, tree planting, shrubs and flower beds. A number of opportunities for landscaping such as in front of the toilets, along the linear area adjacent to the bottle banks and at the Cross on the Ardara/Glenties approach should be considered for tree planting and landscaping with shrubs for year round effect. The derelict shed on the Ardara/Glenties approach needs to be removed and the area tidied up. The Portnoo Road out past the school enroute to the Pier had a beautiful display of wild flowers on the roadside. Residents down by the Pier are to be congratulated on the lovely display of colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Located on the coast Narin Portnoo has the potential to do extremely well in this section. A committee should now be formed guided by local wildlife and coastal experts to firstly identify local wildlife and natural amenities, then formulate an achievable plan for the next five years. Increasing awareness and appreciation of wildlife and local amenities through the schools and community groups should be an integral part of this campaign. Recommendations in last year's report in relation to coastal walks, information plaques and signs should be considered for 2006.

Litter Control:

There was a notable improvement in the litter control this year. Your efforts in relation to notices at the beach, in local shops and no doubt the cooperation of the local authority all contributed to this. Some incidental litter was visible at Mickey's Shop and along the road side in places. A number of high quality bins positioned strategically throughout Narin Portnoo may address this. I was pleased to see that litter was not a problem down by the beach as was noted last year.

Tidiness:

While the main through road has a tidy appearance, untidy open spaces, weeds along boundary walls and building material detract from the overall good impression. Some derelict buildings are still an issue. Old sign posts should be removed when not in use. Participation in the annual national Clean up campaign would bring residents, community groups, school children and statutory organizations on board and make all aware of the fragile environment we all live in. Refer to the Tidy Towns Manual for projects which the community as a whole could get involved in and hopefully increase the number of volunteers for the Tidy Towns Committee.

Residential Areas:

Residential properties are generally well maintained with freshly cut lawns, landscaped gardens and some newly painted. However, as mentioned in last years report a number of premises still need to participate and support the overall Tidy Towns effort by painting and generally tidying up their properties. The row of cottages at the Pier are a delight. Well done to those concerned. Narin Portnoo has quite a number of seasonal residences which need to be maintained and presented to a high standard all year round. Low maintenance shrubs, plants and landscaping should be considered for good all year round effect. Individual mobile homes are quite well presented, however, screening to give privacy and make the line of vision to the sea more attractive would be a positive step.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road to Portnoo/Rosbeg and out to the Pier was just trimmed. Unfortunately, other access

roads from Glenties/Ardara are still in need of attention. The verges are uneven with drains running next to the verge making it unsafe should a car need to pull in. The local authority may be in a position to help you address this. A number of name plates and signs are obscured and need cleaning. The link road from the beach to the Portnoo/Rosbeg Road needs to be trimmed as the verge is impinging on the roadway. Back areas particularly of public houses should where possible should be suitably screened. The road surface is generally quite good except for the occasional pot hole. The footpath down towards the beach is very welcome and should be extended to the main road where people are walking along a very busy road. Some additional amenity signage would also be helpful.

General Impression:

Your small committee, with support from the local authority and some residents continues to make steady progress. A renewed effort from all who benefit from Narin Portnoo's vast beauty and amenities is now required to reach your full potential in this competition.