

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Brockagh-Cloghan** Ref: **625**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **226**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>226</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

You are now into the second year of your Five Year Plan. It is hoped that you feel you are progressing along the lines suggested in it, for the objectives outlined are all most worthwhile, including those of a cultural nature - music, storytelling and the language - which of course do not show up in the physical amenities. Your co-operative contact with so many of the official bodies must be beneficial. It is good to read that you are in constant contact with the children in school..

### The Built Environment:

The Gala/Top shop and filling station were very smartly presented indeed on the day of the visit - a pity that it has to be right in the village centre as it does not fit into the scale of the traditional buildings. Harkin's Bar was well presented; loose wires suggested that additional exterior lighting will shortly be connected. The Rambler's Inn was also very nicely maintained. Unfortunately the Health Centre needed freshening up with paint. If it were as well looked after as the splendid Isaac Butt Heritage Centre it would be first class.

### Landscaping:

As last year, the planting opposite Harkin's and the fine stone wall created a sense of pride and care. Excellent shrub planting was seen on the side road to An Comharchumann. The Heritage Centre was also set in pleasant planting.

### Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your entry form here is rather short on information, but it is good to read that you co-operate with the local fishing and gun club in the control of vermin. It goes without saying that this neighbourhood of superb mountain and mooland, valley and stream, forest and field, is an idyllic natural amenity; what is needed is

interpretation and sensitive access for the visitor and the local public. Have you thought of illustrated boards showing native flora and fauna? - these create considerable interest in other villages; or, in the long term, inspiring the opening of a route for walkers along the track of the old railway? You may be thinking along these lines already.

#### **Litter Control:**

It is very good to read that your help from the school children and the FAS workers is readily available, for at the time of the visit there was considerably less disposable litter than heretofore. A higher mark would have been achieved were it not that a vacant site (next a brown and yellow house) was badly littered; it would only have taken the landowner ten or fifteen minutes to clear it up. All residents and business people are responsible for keeping their immediate surroundings free of litter.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

This mark is well above average for this new category - a category which will assume greater importance as time goes on. It is very encouraging to read that you make use of the re-cycling centre in Stranorlar. The local bring bank was kept tidy, with good surrounds. Congratulations.

#### **Tidiness:**

You have not done quite so well under this heading. Two exceptionally untidy sheds were seen near the telephone box, on either side of the road. An unattractive building opposite the Gala shop needed attention and nearby a rusty corrugated iron roof needed either painting or replacement. Some less than tidy 'backs' were on view from the Moneen road. An poorly-kept building on the Ballybofey road next to a beautifully presented white house was unfavourably noted. Post and wire fencing in some places needed upgrading - or better still, replacement with wooden palings.

#### **Residential Areas:**

A very handsome house with green facings was admired on the Brockagh side. Smart bungalows were seen on Moneen Road. Excellent stone boundary walls created a feeling of good taste at the houses in this neighbourhood. The well kept homes by far outnumbered those few which were not quite so well looked after. Congratulations to the majority of householders. It is wonderful that assistance is given to the elderly who are unable to look after their properties adequately - this is what community spirit really means.

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

The surfacing of the main road, and surfacing of footpaths in the village, was very good indeed. The Moneen road was, surprisingly, in need of attention, and on this road the Cloghan sign was in need of cleaning - a job that would only take a few minutes. The elegant lamp standards were admired, and it is hoped that you will be able to have these extended.

#### **General Impression:**

Work completed to date is impressive. Emphasis needs to be given to the tidying up of neglected sites and buildings. Provided you follow the guidelines in your Five Year Plan you should achieve a much higher marking in the coming years.