

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Bundoran** Ref: **697**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **233**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **12/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>233</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Very good progress has been made, but you may be denying yourself additional marks on account of having a committee of only two persons - albeit these two have done really remarkable work. Perhaps you should enlarge the committee to include persons with additional expertise, and also recruit new residents. This adjudicator has enjoyed a relationship with Bundoran for over 50 years (though only recently as adjudicator) and it is very good to see the improvements that have been recently been made. The town is best appreciated from the cliff-top at Roguey, where the now fashionably strong colours of the houses can be seen in their entirety against the incomparable background of mountain and seascape. The improvement to the road system has greatly helped in the upward marking.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Holyrood, Allingham and Great Northern hotels are the most prominent buildings in the town, apart from the churches, and they are conspicuously well presented. The apartments on the sea side of the Central Hotel would make more of a mark if their various wings or sections were painted in the bright colours which have become a feature of the town. The two churches are well maintained; it is a pity that the pretty Methodist church has become a business premises, and more of a pity that the Prebyterian church has been boarded up - has a new purpose been sought for it? The modern college on the Kinlough road impressed greatly - it might have been nominated for the architectural award but you do not give any information about it on your entry form. Some buildings are not so well looked after, such as the Ulster Tourist House and the Hamilton Hall. Some individual shops and business houses look well but the overall impression of the main street is of an ugly clutter of mass-produced and garish signs.

### **Landscaping:**

It is surprising that Bundoran lacks substantial landscaping projects especially on the old approach roads from

Sligo and Ballyshannon. The small plantings here and there were seen to be pleasant and colourful. Lawns in public spaces were generally trim. The children's playground was looking most attractive on the date of the visit.

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

It is also surprising that little seems to have been done to enhance the natural environment and make it more accessible - for example, the illustrated boards showing local fauna and flora which create much interest in other towns could do well in a town with so many visitors. You do not say if birdwatching groups, for example, are catered for, though it is quite likely that they are. Your note on the entry form that there is 'a general awareness of wild life' does not seem to have translated into genuine action. You may believe that the wonderful mix of strand, cliffs, dunes, river and meadow is sufficient in itself, but if so, please make this clear in your notes and your opinion will be respected.

#### **Litter Control:**

You have done even better this year in keeping the town relatively litter-free. . There was no litter to be seen on the superb strand, and very little on the cliff walks. Congratulations to the local Council and to voluntary workers.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is a good average mark in the first year of this new category - one which will become more and more important as time goes on. It is encouraging to read that you are working with the Council and the schools.

#### **Tidiness:**

Unfortunately this is your least successful category. There are a number of unkempt 'corners' - such as near the entrance to the Great Northern Hotel - throughout the town; the untidy commercial signage has already been referred to but also extends to the approach roads where advertising for accommodation, services and commodities is quite prevalent - has planning permission been given for such signs? The inconsistent outer roadsides contribute to this condition - where some roadside properties have fine stone walls or neat wooden fencing or trim hedges, many in between are dilapidated, unkempt and generally scruffy. In some places builders' debris remains long after building has been completed. Poles and overhead wires contribute to the poor impression.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The older town houses and cottages and the terraces facing the sea are almost invariably kept with as sense of pride. Some newer homes in the same tradition, such as the curve of houses descending near the pier, are a real enhancement. Newer housing, such as at Doran Park and Drumacrin, were well kept at the time of the visit; at Lissadell Avenue the undeveloped spaces between the new houses looked well, with meadow grass and wild flowers. The Caravan Park, though no beauty spot, appeared to be well looked after. The bleakness of some of the new holiday homes and estates was relieved by planting.

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

The new by-pass is distinguished by its well-designed roundabouts, bridges and fencing. The approach road from Kinlough had good surfacing and tidy verges; throughout the town, indeed, surfaces were well laid except in a very few cases, and road-markings clear. A very successful attempt had been made to keep up the cliff paths, both in the West End and by the Golf Course. Street furniture and lighting standards are of high quality in the town centre and along by the Water World.

#### **General Impression:**

There had been an undoubted improvement in the maintenance and development of Bundoran. Adjudicators in recent years have felt that if the membership of the committee were increased in a way that would achieve success in its approaches to official bodies and businesses, more might be achieved, and more quickly, for there is still a long way to go. Bundoran starts with a greater advantage than most centres because of its superb situation and seaside amenities, yet it is felt that much more could be made of these. For the present, however, congratulations of what it is hoped are of an interim kind, are in order.