

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Carndonagh** Ref: **536**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **221**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **16/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>221</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

In the years before Carndonagh's entry to the competition the town was little more than a place you passed through, pausing to admire the celebrated cross. It is quite different now, with a palpable sense of prosperity and a number of improvements to the townscape and the local environment. Congratulations to the committee for its enterprise, and also to organisations such as Action Inishowen and the Development Association. Do you involve new residents in your activities? - some other groups in places when there has been a rise in population have found that in doing so they have added new and useful skills to their committees. Your schematic map was only fairly useful as it did not mark the new road which runs across the north of the town, which proved a bit confusing at first, and some important features were not shown - next year you can update the map.

### **The Built Environment:**

This adjudicator was particularly pleased with the appearance of the Railway Station, which he had not seen before. The Fire Station, Atlantic Fish, and the Public Services Centre on what is remembered as a vacant site, all impressed (incidentally, none of them were marked on the map). The Carndonagh Shopping Centre is a well kept new building - but just the kind of place that could get covered in garish signage, so watch out for that! The churches are handsomely maintained. The cool design of the new Bank manages to fit very well into the original streetscape. O'Doherty's was the best presented business premises seen. The long school building on the Ballyliffin road, with its yellow paintwork and fine trees, was admired, as indeed was the rather dull Community Hospital for its tidiness. The additions to the public and commercial building stock are impressive and so extra marks have been gladly awarded. Some of the shops, though, are still marred by inappropriate and mass-produced signage.

### **Landscaping:**

The spacious grounds of the RC Church were admired, and also the tidy walkway up to the church from the town centre. Much of what can be described as 'landscaping' is in the grounds of public buildings or in housing estates - there is in fact very little landscaping in the sense that is usually understood by the term, such as at important road junctions and in open urban spaces. In the vicinity of the ancient cross there is appropriate landscaping, and the planting in the Diamond is effective. A number of flowering tubs, window boxes and hanging baskets throughout the town increase the air of pride.

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

No outstanding wildlife project seems to have been introduced. You have maintained the hedgerows and riverside to an acceptable degree. It is important to involve school children in nature studies and projects - this may well be going on, though you do not mention it.

#### **Litter Control:**

Judging from last year's adjudicator's report, there has been a distinct improvement this year. Congratulations to those who participate in clean-ups, and to the FAS workers.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is an above-average mark given in the first year of this new category - a category which will increase in importance as time goes on. It is excellent that you have a civic amenity site already installed. Your efforts under this heading, which should be supported by the local Authority, will be assessed in the second year and further marks awarded as appropriate.

#### **Tidiness:**

It is admirable how self-critical you are under this heading! Certainly there is considerable room for improvement, though some derelict sites have been tidied up and some removed altogether. A very unsightly gable was seen as you rise up to the town coming from Moville. The new road across the north of the town has created some small unsightly areas that still need to be attended to, and the commercial area on the Culdaff road still needs sensitive completion.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The older housing stock in the core of the town is what gives Carndonagh its particular flavour. Of the newer housing, the attention was caught by houses with steep gables and attractive stonework off Chapel street - this surpasses all others in design and layout. Abbotswood, and other estates on Convent road were well looked after. Some substantial residences on the Ballyliffin road were admired, and also a very well kept roadside terrace.

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

The new road, which is virtually a by-pass (has it been named?) will have done much to alleviate traffic congestion in the Diamond. Roads in general are well surfaced, and new paving was seen on the Malin road (though this was one place where the road surfacing was poor). Most streets now have handsome bilingual signs.

#### **General Impression:**

Much good work has been done which, as you will have discovered as the population rises, will result in the need for more! You are certainly aware of the places where improvements are needed. This adjudicator hopes that he will be assigned to Donegal again before long to see the well-favoured developments expected. Best wishes for your energetic initiatives.