

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Glencolmcille** Ref: **701**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **213**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>213</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

In judging, it is difficult to reconcile a village of this nature - which is more an area of population with a small village core - with the precepts of the Tidy Towns competition, for the traditions of such a locality would seem to be incompatible with what could be seen as an over-urbanised concept. In the following, every attempt has been made to treat of Glencolmcille in a sympathetic and positive manner. The wealth of pre-historic and early-Christian remains, remembered from a childhood visit, are breathtaking and are profusely marked on the Ordnance Survey. Has there been a response to your village renewal plan as submitted to the local Authority? and has there been movement regarding the proposed renovation of the Lace House? Can the results of the National School project on local history be seen? - these queries may be replied to on your next entry form. Please mark all sites and attractions which you consider to be important on your map.

### **The Built Environment:**

Both churches were well maintained at the time of the visit. The wall at the Garda barracks was nicely painted. The filling station in the centre of the village was very smart indeed - just a pity that it has to be here. The shop being renovated opposite the RC Church looked promising. Halla Muire was well kept. An Cistin - a fine building - was marred by excessive signage: are all those notices really needed? The stone frontage of Kelly's Knitwear was good but the rear of the building needed painting. The Molloy premises badly needed attention, and derelict sites, such as opposite Teach Bidy, next to the Fire Station and at the foot of the road signposted to the Hostel, all detracted from the overall building stock.

### **Landscaping:**

Not much formal landscaping was seen, nor indeed would be appropriate. Flowers in pots were favourably noticed in salient places. The very well equipped children's playground with its amusing sculpture was admired. The graveyard was well kept - attention needs to be given to the joins between railings and walls

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The whole neighbourhood is a natural amenity in itself! What is intended under this heading is the enhancement and interpretation of the amenity for the public and especially for children - such as the signposted walks; and also any other informational features that can be arranged: illustrated boards explaining bird and plant life for example. Access to the superbly inviting beach has been improved.

**Litter Control:**

There seemed to have been a big improvement under this heading. Congratulations to all those who took part in the spring clean-up and to residents who engage in keeping their premises litter-free.

**Waste Minimisation:**

This is an average mark given in the first year of this new category; what you do in the meantime will give an increase (or decrease) next year. A bring bank was not seen - there may be one but if so it was missed. The local Authority should be instrumental in providing the facilities required.

**Tidiness:**

The untidiest aspect of the neighbourhood, which is perhaps more noticeable to the outsider, is the post-and-wire roadside fencing in very many places, often poorly maintained and attracting weed growth. Boundaries in general are inconsistent - in some places there are fine stone walls or attractive wooden palings, but the spaces in between, particularly where old walls have crumbled, give a dissolute air. Advertising signs on verges and in fields (have they received planning permission?) are unsightly. The surroundings of Molloy's were seen to be remarkably weedy - one would expect a commercial enterprise to do better. Weed growth to a lesser extent was seen at the Launderette - only a few minutes work each month would keep this in order!

**Residential Areas:**

The Folk Village, for which Glencolmcille is justly famous, was probably the earliest of its kind in the country and set the pattern for others which now seem to have outstripped it in general care such as the planting of shrubs, maintenance of paths and gardens. Father McDyer Terrace is a real tribute to the memory of a remarkable man; some of the houses have lovely frontages in the 'cottage garden' tradition which might well be copied at the Folk Village. A pretty thatched cottage opposite the Garda station was seen: more of these should be encouraged, but without the PVC glazing bars. The terrace of grey houses is a sad sight and might be an opportunity for an imaginative developer to transform: the result would be more in keeping with the rural tradition than one-off bungalows. If the house opposite, for sale at the time of adjudication, is to be redeveloped, the replacement of the flat roof with a pitched one should be recommended. The majority of homes are presented with real pride by their owners.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Most of the road surfaces are of a good standard. The stone boundary wall at An Cistin might be copied to advantage by other businesses and householders. The boundary wall of the car park opposite the Folk Village was broken in three places, and the car park itself needed weeding at the time of the visit; this is a place frequented by tourists and it is a pity for them to see it in a disadvantageous light.

**General Impression:**

What is most needed and what would enhance the locality without compromising its natural beauty is an aggressive tidying of roadsides, house frontages, boundary walls and fences. Walls of local stone are best, but expensive; stout wooden palings can look very well, and hedges of whatever best suits the climate would be excellent. Post and wire fencing should be outlawed! A great deal has been achieved to date, and your future plans show sturdy initiative. Every good wish for your fine work.