

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Loch an luir** Ref: **705**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **251**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	251

Overall Development Approach:

Your documentation is as impressive as it is informative. Thank you for the photographs, for the very comprehensive replies on the entry form and for your excellent map. (There is not necessity to forward copies of correspondence or application forms to other organisations, etc.) This was the first time this adjudicator had stopped in Loch an luir though he had passed through it many times. The visit was quite rewarding, disclosing areas which were interesting and pleasant to visit.

The Built Environment:

The front of the Irish College was being painted at the time of the visit and by now will be looking very smart. The most eye-catching building is the Casadh an tSugain public house; the fine stone extension is as attractive as the original thatched house. The school was well presented though its frontage is rather bleak in spite of some nice planting on the right hand side. There is an apparently vacant building on the left as you look over the lake, which is a pity as it is a wonderful situation.

Landscaping:

The exceptionally neat planting as you come from Dungloe did not strike this visitor as 'old style', in fact it looked rather suburban - but whatever it is called it was very well thought-out and created a sense of expectation and welcome. Pleasant little stone-bordered beds of pansies were favourably noted; what do you do with these beds during the winter season? If you plant bulbs for early spring flowering it would make a nice additional display. Bedding plants were well laid out at the Peace Park. Have you thought of introducing more berry bearing shrubs for autumn and evergreens for winter interest, here or elsewhere? The grotto at the other end of the village was well tended, and hanging baskets and tubs added pleasing points of colour here and there.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your tree-planting programme is adventurous - it is easy to believe that there are 160 young trees planted in the neighbourhood. The lakeside fishing facility is attractively laid out and is obviously popular. Interpreting local wild life for the public by means of signage is welcomed. It was good to see bog-cotton and plenty of wild phlox in hedgerows and open spaces especially on the road down to the lake and in the Leacach.

Litter Control:

The clean-up had occurred only about three weeks before the visit and had clearly been effective. (One hopes for the day when a litter clean-up will be un-necessary!) There seem to be sufficient bins now throughout the village. Congratulations to all those who take part in your litter patrols.

Waste Minimisation:

This is an average mark for the first year of this new category - a category which will assume greater importance as the years go on. Is there a bring bank in the village? - if there is the adjudicator apologises for not spotting it; if there is not, then this essential facility should be supplied to you by the local Authority, and this would be a start.

Tidiness:

There was a distinct improvement over last year. When you are poisoning roadside weeds, be sure to remove the dead foliage as it can look even more undidy than the living weeds! The 'backs' of structures behind the Irish College, as seen from the road to Annagry, could do with drastic attention. The handball alley was still a problem at the time of the visit but it seems from your notes that it is due for demolition; and there is still some dereliction amongst the housing on the other side of the main road.

Residential Areas:

Some very attractive houses of traditional design were seen on the roads to the east of the main road, though not all in the best condition - the type of house which used to be found in the clochan type of settlement. Several houses throughout the village were seen to have first class front gardens, adding to the attractiveness of the general scene. Among the individual homes a new two-storied house in course of construction with superb use of stone was noticed - its completion will be greatly looked forward to.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road widening at the dangerous corner on the Dunloe road was not completed but it was easily seen how effective it will be. Road surfacing and paving was generally very good, particularly the recent work. Attractive stout wooden palings and stone walls were seen in a number of places and these types of boundary are to be vastly preferred to concrete block walls.

General Impression:

A considerable amount of work has been accomplished over the last year and it is good to read in your documentation that you envisage a great deal more. This spirit of enterprise is warmly applauded. Best wishes for its continuance.