

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Moville** Ref: **707**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **258**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **16/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>258</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Your comprehensive Three-Year Plan is surely a four year one as takes to you 2009! Thank you for the information and the impressive plans in it. Your very clear map with with all important sites marked should be a model for others. It is three or four years since this adjudicator was in Moville and it was visited with a real sense of elation because the improvements which probably seem slow to take place to residents appeared as considerable to the visitor. The wonderful approach through the thickly wooded Foyleside where the prospect opens out to reveal the boats after which the town comes into view is quite uplifting. The town itself has improved a great deal in many ways, thanks no doubt to the activities of your committee. Do you have recently arrived new residents on your committee? - in some other towns this has resulted in additional skills being recruited.

### **The Built Environment:**

What immediately strikes the visitor is how well painted the majority of the buildings are, whether commercial or residential. The colours are brighter than in most Ulster seaside towns, where cream and brown seem to predominate. This gives a sense of uplift, and must surely brighten the winter season. The Community College is a well kept and commanding building on its wooded hill. The churches are imposing and St Columb's is marked by particularly well-tended grounds. The charming long house nearby may have been a former church or church hall and is immediately eye-catching. Buildings across the Diamond from the RC Church were under reconstruction and the result will be looked forward to. Among other principal buildings favourably noted were the Garda station, the Temperance hall and McNamara's hotel. The rehabilitation of the old warehouse has been picked out before as a first class project successfully completed.

### **Landscaping:**

St Finian's Park is pleasantly laid out. The grassed spaces overlooking the sea were neatly trimmed. Trees in

the Market Square were seen to be doing well. Many premises were pleasingly decorated with window-boxes, hanging baskets or tubs of flowers. The grounds of industrial units were planted with unusual taste. The adjudicator admits to having been unable to find the childrens' playground at O'Gara Villas and local residents seemed to be equally baffled! Quite successful improvement had been made to a derelict site, but in the long term this should be completed with suitable infill housing.

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

The Sli na Slainte is a splendid amenity and was very well maintained at the time of the visit. With this the planting along the sea frontage should be mentioned again. Young trees were seen in many places, whether planted this year or earlier. It is assumed that nature studies are part of the schools curriculum.

#### **Litter Control:**

The annual clean-up may have occurred just before the visit in mid-June because the town was almost litter-free. The only two places where disposable litter was seen, and then in a comparatively small quantity, was on Carndonagh road and in the Market Square. It is essential for shopkeepers and householders to keep their immediate precincts clear of litter. Congratulations to the voluntary helpers who are keeping Moville so litter-free this year.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is an average mark given in the first year of this new category - a category which will assume much greater importance as the years go on. What you accomplish in the next twelve months will influence a higher mark. Your discomfort at the placing of the recycling centre in a prominent beauty-spot is appreciated and it is hoped that your consultations with the local Authority will result in its positioning in a less sensitive area.

#### **Tidiness:**

While the overall picture of the town is one of tidiness, there were several 'corners' that needed attention. For example, unpleasant sites at the foot of Ard Foyle and some scruffy areas above the housing at the top of the town. Advertising signs were seen on the verges of the Derry road - has planning permission been given for these? for they detract from the agreeable nature of this approach, and the Valeting Service premises on this road could be tidier. It was noted from your entry form that you removed undergrowth above the putting-green which was shielding unsavoury practices.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The nineteenth and early twentieth century housing stock which makes up so much of what is immediately visible in Moville is presented with real style. The Victorian terraces overlooking the sea, the smaller houses on the approach to the harbour, old houses in side streets, all contribute to the sense of care and pride. Nicely painted houses were noted on the Carndonagh road. In the newer estates above the town there is almost as much attention given to the effect of good residential husbandry which includes the cultivation of front and side gardens. It is not surprising that there is an annual garden competition. Fine single houses on the Greencastle road were very favourably noted.

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

Very good road surfacing and markings were noted on the approach from Derry. The same may be said for the Greencastle road where road-marking will shortly be accomplished. Some wooden roadside fencing needed repair or renewal here. Not all streets or roads had name plates. The elegant lamp standards have probably been praised before but are mentioned again because they provide a genuine sense of flair in the furnishing of the streetscape.

#### **General Impression:**

Moville seem to be improving at an easy pace on all fronts, thanks to the encouragement and advice given by your committee in all quarters, and thanks to the supportive involvement of the official bodies in almost all categories. Every good wish for the continuance of this successful work: the attitude appears to the visitor to be of a highly cultivated nature.