

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Narin-Portnoo** Ref: **601**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **226**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>226</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The temptation for an adjudicator in a place like this is to allow oneself to be distracted by the incomparable surroundings and not attend to the serious work in hand! It is good to learn from your documentation that this competition is taken very seriously by Narin-Portnoo Tidy Towns Committee and that substantial progress is being made in face of certain difficulties, such as lack of co-operation among some residents, which you seem to be overcoming with determination. When submitting your map next year, please mark all points of interest that should be visited - for example, Greenhouse Brae could not be located until enquiries were made. Please enter the categories of the competition in the appropriate boxes - for example, the bottle bank should appear under 'Waste Minimisation' rather than 'Built Environment', etc.

### **The Built Environment:**

There is little that can be termed 'architecture' in the neighbourhood, except the attractively positioned Inniskeel Church which is so well looked after. The Annora Bar was well presented on the date of the visit, with its smooth tarmacadamed forecourt and good fencing. Morgan's also looked tidy and inviting.

### **Landscaping:**

The neat pic-nic area and viewing point opposite the church, with its lovely polished stone furniture, should be a model for other centres. It was good to see strimming of grassed spaces in progress. Much of the landscaping in the neighbourhood is to be seen in the gardens of private homes and these contribute enormously to the visual sense of well-being.

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

Narin-Potnoo is a natural paradise in itself. hat is intended under this heading is that the wild-life element

should be encouraged and enhanced and also interpreted for the public and especially for children. It is good that your hedge-cutting is only undertaken where absolutely necessary and is discreet. It was good to see wild flowers such as clover, vetch, dog-daisies and montbrecia growing unmolested along roadsides. As recommended by previous adjudicators, illustrated sign boards showing the flora and fauna native to the area prove very popular with the public.

#### **Litter Control:**

There was very little disposable litter in the area near the shops, and hardly any elsewhere. Some bins were seen just about to overflow. The beach was wonderfully clean. Congratulations on doing so well under this vexatious heading.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The bring bank was kept tidy on the date of the visit ; as noted above under 'Litter' it is clear that in summer waste management is inadequate and your representations to the local Authority in this matter are known to have resulted in little action. The only advice that can be given is persistence, and if you succeed you will have undertaken a commendable public service. The mark given here is an average in the first year of this new category which will assume greater importance as time goes on.

#### **Tidiness:**

There is an unfortunate derelict site on the road above the pier, all too conspicuous because of its ugly cement block wall. A derelict shed on the approach road should be removed. A notice reading 'Private' at the caravan site needed repainting. These are only a few eyesores in what is overall a very tidy locality. Your campaign against fly-posting was successful, at least at the time of the visit. Congratulations to the local Authority for providing the best kept WC encountered this year.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The new white houses below the level of the road looked promising. Caravans and mobile homes were reasonably discreet. A flat-roofed house opposite the Narin Inn and its boundary wall needed attention at the time of adjudication. Most individual homes blend very prettily in to the hillside; the incidence of attractive front gardens was well above average; some amazing rambling and climbing roses were seen. Houses in the immediate vicinity of the pier looked most charming, especially in their selection of colours. It was good to see a stone wall being erected here.

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

Road surfaces were seen to be generally poor. The traffic island and smart bollards near Annora's Bar are big improvements; so is the lengthy curved stone wall leading down to the beach. It is remarkable how this unites varied properties and gives a sense of visual cohesion.

#### **General Impression:**

Keeping an area in good shape where holidaymakers are abundant is certainly quite a daunting task and this small committee of public-spirited people is certainly doing its self-imposed duty to great effect. Every good wish in the continuation of this fine work.