

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Baile Na Finne** Ref: **888**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **204**
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	204

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome back to TidyTowns! Thank you for your entry into this year's TidyTowns Competition, it is good to have Baile na Finne back in this project for 2009. Drawing up a a medium to long-term (e.g. 3-year) plan would be most useful in helping you plan your work. A good idea would be to split this up into months and allocate tasks as accurately as possible. That way, you'll be in good time to do weeding, planting etc. as the seasons allow. You are strongly advised to seek help and advice from outside agencies. These can be statutory such as Donegal County Council, or voluntary like others of the many TidyTowns groups in the county. Many of these are setting an excellent standard and rather than feeling that you are far too far behind them, you are encouraged to learn from their expertise where possible. You may also submit your entry in Irish if you wish.

The Built Environment:

The Railway Inn was quite well kept. The Teach a' Cheoil is a very nice building and looks as if it is regular use. The Teach Pobaiill Colmcille (RC) with its belltower and shrine looked very well. The Ionad Colmcille agus an Naonra/Ionad Lae looked very well kept and in regular use. What are the plans for the old Halla Colmcille? An Aras Sheain Bhain agus Leabharlann is a very attractive building.

Landscaping:

The tractor-tyre planters at the carpark looked good, as did the tree-planting at Ard Colmcille. The verges throughout the village are neatly cut. The grounds of the Teach Pobaiill looked very neat. A little more landscaping is recommended at the Udaras building. The grounds of the Aras are well kept. The grass is kept well at the railway station (Cumann Traenach na Gaeltachta Lair) and the playground and fencing looked good.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your entry did not give any information in this section. However, there are many possibilities to improve in this area. It is suggested that you contact the local Conservation ranger of the National Parks and Wildlife Service for advice on this area. Possible projects could be: a baseline wildlife survey of your area and identification of existing habitat areas in the village. Creation of new habitat with butterfly or bird areas is quite easily achieved. Over a shorter term, the erection and maintenance of bird boxes or bat roosting boxes gets good results. What about lake-shore walks with a birdwatcher or a guide? Why not contact groups such as Birdwatch Ireland or the Irish Wildlife Trust for advice? You have a lovely setting. Any number of projects may be carried out. The roadsides already have several native species of fern, rowan and birch trees. Some tree-planting has been done on the Glenties Road.

Litter Control:

Your anti-litter programme appears to be off to a good start. Almost no litter was seen on day of visit. Given that your village is on a main road, discarded litter from passing cars will probably continue to be an issue. It is recommended that you set up a regular anti-litter-patrol to keep up the high standard observed on the adjudication day.

Waste Minimisation:

You have given no information on this section. Please consult the TidyTowns handbook for guidance. The emphasis of this section of the project is the reduction and minimisation of waste, not so much on litter or recycling. Your environmental awareness officer (Donegal County Council) will be able to advise you on this. Encouraging household composting is a good idea. A community composting scheme is one of the many ways that a village can reduce the waste that arises. You can be very creative in this category.

Tidiness:

The sign of the Central Stores will need to be repainted soon. The grounds and buildings at the Railway Station were very neat. The benches and filled flower containers looked good. The bottle banks were clean but watch out for rubbish building where people discard containers.

Residential Areas:

A reasonably high standard of presentation was seen among the houses and gardens on day of visit. On future entries, please do include details of any particular works or areas for special attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The planting of trees on the approach road from Ballybofey looks very well. The verges are well cut and an overall impression of care is given. The fencing looks well for the most part. The little road down to the station is very pleasant.

General Impression:

Well done on your entry. Do try to add more detail if so desired. Tell us more about activities such as angling, boating or others in the village. Fintown is in a truly marvellous setting and it would be easy to spend time here. You will more than likely come up against difficult situations in your work but you are asked to persevere and when in any doubt, seek advice. We hope that you will enjoy your work with the TidyTowns project and that it will give your village many benefits. Good luck!