

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballyliffin** Ref: **695**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **249**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **22/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>249</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your entry into this year's TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for a very concise but thorough submission. Well done for putting together a three year plan. It might be a good idea to break this down into individual tasks per project area. You have good numbers on your committee and it seems that you communicate well with other organisations. It is good that you work with the schools so much. This can benefit communities and schools equally.

### **The Built Environment:**

The hotel overlooking the beach looks complete but not open yet. The (RC) church looks great and the granite chair outside is lovely. Some of the hotels were closed on day of visit. Perhaps this is still pre-season? The Atlantic stores and Post Office were very well kept and neat. The Atlantic Ballroom is a very impressive building and looked freshly painted. This would make a great community centre. Good luck with that aspect of your work. The Top/Gala service station/shop was in good condition.

### **Landscaping:**

The playground is really nice and was very busy on day of visit! There were also lots of people at the beach that day. The start of the trail should be formalised. There is very nice planting throughout the village; Well done to all involved. Some interpretation is required in places. Some heritage information on the pilgrimage trail is a must. Some signs in the village for the beach might be of benefit to visitors. The watercolour poster looks nice but more information might be good at other locations, given the layout of the village. The parking lot beside Trasna House Hotel could perhaps be made look less bleak. The planting of a village Christmas tree is a great idea. The cherry tree-planting plan for distinctive bloom is good. Check first that the variety chosen is suitable for seaside conditions.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The planning of 3 walks of differing levels is excellent and fits well with the surroundings and plays to the strengths of the area. Try and get a wildlife expert to carry out a baseline survey of the area so that your walks are designed to minimise visitor/construction impact as well as bring the walker close to habitats of interest. Your plan of providing wildlife information is good. Brochure-style walking route guides are a great way of spreading information and are very cost-effective.

**Litter Control:**

The idea of dividing up the seasons for litter-patrols by the 4 schools is excellent. Some litter was seen on day of visit. Some was on the beach above the high-tide mark on the Clonmany side. There was also a fair amount of jetsam.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Well done on segregating and recycling the waste materials. Your proposed 4-bin recycling system for the village is excellent and it is hoped that this will come about. However, this section of the project focuses on the reduction and minimisation of waste materials. I would suggest that your group works with the schools on this also. Contact Donegal's environmental awareness officer for clarification and assistance. Some or all of the hotels might be willing to help too.

**Tidiness:**

The access to the beach by the playground needs improving. The multi-lingual signage was greatly admired. The seats recessed into the wall are a very good design and the stone finish is very aesthetically pleasing. Weed control was good.

**Residential Areas:**

The greater majority of houses seen on day of visit were in good condition. The scheme you carried out which saw the painting of houses by the CE workers is an excellent idea. The tree-planting is also advisable.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Well done on working so effectively with Donegal County Council. This kind of useful collaboration is very important. Your ongoing approach to areas like this is encouraging. There is a satisfactory amount of pavements to allow safe pedestrian access.

**General Impression:**

Your entry contains numerous examples of very imaginative thinking and solutions. Your aim to develop walking routes is to be applauded. The 2010 Marathon idea is very ambitious but illustrates your group's strong vision for the area. Similarly, [www.ballyliffen.net](http://www.ballyliffen.net) is a great idea. You are wished the very best of luck with these and it is hoped that your village enjoys the benefits of these for many years to come.