

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Brockagh-Cloghan** Ref: **625**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **247**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>247</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your entry into this year's TidyTowns Competition. Well done on submitting a very comprehensive and well-assembled entry. This contained a good deal of historical perspective and the adjudicator learned a lot about the area and was in a better position to view your very interesting village. Your group seems to have a solid grasp of the tasks at hand and works well with other organisations.

### **The Built Environment:**

The new Health Centre looks great and the carpark here is very well laid out. The new national schools looks really well and the grounds will have plenty of space for planting and other projects. The Isaac Butt heritage centre looks well but was closed at time of visit. The Ramblers' Inn is really lovely, well done to the owners. Harkin's will need some painting soon. The Garda Barracks looked well. The Top/Gala garage and shop were neat and tidy. What are the plans for the old health centre? The old barn is in need of some upkeep but could look lovely. The old cinema may be seen as a heritage feature and hopefully will be retained.

### **Landscaping:**

There are some very nice planters on the Glenties Road and these are very well kept. The use of concrete pipes as planters on the Ballybofey Road was admired. The setting of the village is one of its best assets. The scenery is superb and there is ample opportunity to enjoy it.

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

The planting of native species is very important. Work with the national school on creation of other habitat areas. The roadsides themselves are very rich in native species of fern. There are also many rowan and

birch. The landscape planting on the Glenties Road is well done. Use the existing species as a template for new habitat areas.

#### **Litter Control:**

Well done on all of your anti-litter activities. Very little litter was seen on day of visit.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done on your segregation of waste from clean-ups (not an easy task) and on your general use of the recycling facilities. Your group is advised though to focus on way to reduce the overall waste burden arising from the community. Your plan to include composting is a good one. Ask the Donegal County Council environmental awareness officer for help with this. If the national school is going to participate in the Green School programme (which highly recommended) all sorts of waste and recycling projects could be developed inter the school and the community, perhaps using the FAS project staff.

#### **Tidiness:**

The back areas of the village do need some attention. Some of the older premises need work at the back. The mart looked good. Keep up the lobbying to get the last of the cables grounded. There was a lot of packaging waste discarded at the bottle banks.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The greater majority of the houses seen were in good condition. Gardens appear to be well kept and walls clean.

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

The approach to the village from the Glenties Road is very pleasant. There are a number of derelict buildings but not all look poor. Your planting plans are well thought out and natural screening is a good idea. Some further landscaping on the Ballbofey side would help.

#### **General Impression:**

Your group certainly appears to have a firm grasp of the issues at hand and has a very good approach to tackling these. Your planning is excellent. The village is quite fascinating in terms of history and heritage. This adjudicator would suggest that you stick to your plans and work on those issues within your control. However, do proceed with plans for interpretation facilities for wildlife and historical features. One idea might be to have a board for the viewing area opposite the pub. Perhaps showing the mountains in silhouette and giving some information on the river and valley and how it is worked? Some information for the tourist on the historical features such as the old mart and cinema would be good too. You are wished every success with your work.