

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Buncrana** Ref: **696**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **270**
Category: **E** Date(s): **22/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	35
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	270

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Many thanks for your submission of an excellent entry. This was thoroughly comprehensive but relevant and concise. Well done. Thank you for the very helpful map (and the highly amusing small print in the acknowledgments of same!). Your group has managed to convey the level of detail to which you work. Also clear is that you work well and effectively with other organisations. Your work is highly important to the commercial and tourism interests of your town as well as the quality of life for the residents.

The Built Environment:

The modern shops (especially the Pharmacy) look very good. The Bank of Ireland building looks very poor however, painting is required here. Several pubs, by contrast were resplendent in colour. What are the plans for the old Post Office? O'Flaherty's Bar is outstanding. The NWHB/HSE building could be made to look nicer. The Church of Ireland school is a super building. The Credit Union has very diverse landscape planting.

Landscaping:

The grounds of both the Aldi and Lidl looked good. The planting on the Letterkenny Road roundabout is just spectacular. Well done! The Market Square looks super. The benches here are either new or very well kept. The roundabout on Cockhill Road is very easy on the eye. The street trees are highly effective and the hanging baskets in the main street have obviously well-chosen colours. A great overall impression is given. The block containing the Supervalue, Duffy's etc. is a nice modern building but out front it is dismally lacking. The new HSE building could do with some landscaping. There is lots of space for trees here.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is little in your entry describing existing habitat areas. However, your 3-year plan does show an understanding of the protected areas close to the urban centre. The Birds and Bumblebees Project sounds good and it is hoped that this develops well. Well done on hosting the seminars on wildlife.

Litter Control:

Well done on all of the anti-litter initiatives you have undertaken. The text-notification system is a great idea. Some litter was seen on day of visit. However, it must be said that the back of the nightclub had no chewing gum or cigarette butts. Neither did the takeaway opposite have any litter nearby.

Waste Minimisation:

Good luck with the initiatives described in your entry. It was not clear however, that your group has fully addressed this issue. There are many ways to encourage waste minimisation. These include composting, second hand shops, swap-shop events and web-based awareness programmes. Ask Donegal County Council for assistance with this.

Tidiness:

Bins, benches and just about all of the street furniture looked clean and freshly painted. Well done. There was a generally very high standard in the shopfronts but the Citizens Information Bureau needs a little work. The telephone boxes need to be repaired or removed. They are broken and burnt. The wall of the Courthouse, the adjacent alleyway and and gable wall all need to be cleaned and painted.

Residential Areas:

There are numerous housing estates in Buncrana and it was not possible to visit them all. A generally good standard was seen overall. It wasn't clear from your entry whether the 'Best Kept' competitions are in train or not. More work on creating communal areas as described in last year's adjudication would be beneficial and generally has good long-term results.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The laneways and alleys of the town are surprisingly clean and weed-free. The junction at Cockhill Road has a number of very inviting prospects. The cinema looks very well. Well done to Digital Fone for their clever use of alley wall for advertising. St Mary's Road is excellent. The Eurospar car-park is very bleak by comparison with much of the town.

General Impression:

The impression of a high degree of co-operation between residents and businesses is given by Buncrana. Assistance and co-operation from the local authorities is also evident. Your group seems highly organised and motivated. This adjudicator suggests that you work on the wildlife projects and also tackle waste minimisation in the coming year. Evidence of wide participation in the town was given in the form of four young volunteers in TidyTowns hi-viz vests working on the roadsides as the adjudicator left the town. Well done.