

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Donegal** Ref: **607**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **259**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **20/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	42
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>259</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your entry into this year's TidyTowns competition. Congratulations on submitting such a comprehensive and well-planned entry. A word of caution: the adjudicator's time is limited in every centre so be careful not to include unnecessary information or ask that the adjudicator see too many places. Choose carefully the places you feel are most worth seeing. You have a strong and apparently well-organised committee as well as a coherent workforce. You obviously work well with outside agencies and you take a long-term view of the town. Your plan reflects this.

### **The Built Environment:**

The hospital and grounds look very well. The library/education centre looked very well kept. The Abbey was neat with just the right amount of interpretation. The hotels and pub-fronts are all in good condition. The Diamond is a lovely centrepiece to the town and was setting up for market day at time of visit. St. Patrick's (RC) Church is very striking. The castle looks great but not so much from behind. The Abbey Vocational school looks good but Scoil Hugh Roe needs painting. The railings at Scoil Aodh agus Nuala need painting and the bin here looked tatty. The Donegal Shopping Centre is a bit bare and tree-planting might help here.

### **Landscaping:**

Most of the landscaping seen on the streets of the town was to a very high standard. Well done to all for maintaining this number of planters. The planting at the roundabouts and on approach (e.g. the Killybegs Road) was very much appreciated. Well done on securing the sponsorship for much of this. The grounds of the Abbey Vocational School were outstanding.

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

As your application correctly states, there are many wildlife amenities which naturally occur in this area. Well done on securing the expert advice of Mr Sheppard. What will become of this information? Many thanks for the little flora and fauna booklet. A conservation plan might be the next step. Keep maintaining areas such as the Bank walk. Has a bird survey been completed?

#### **Litter Control:**

Adjudication took place on a Saturday morning. Despite this, there was very little litter observed. Well done to your team and to all who work with you on this. Reaching this level of cleanliness is no mean achievement. There was unfortunately some fly-tipped rubbish at the playground and this was strewn about.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The adjudicator feels that this category has not been as fully addressed as it might have been. The organisation of composting workshops is a valuable initiative. You are advised to consult with the County Council on this area. Look closely at the criteria for this category. Work with both businesses and schools is essential in this regard.

#### **Tidiness:**

There was evidence of much work being carried out throughout the year. Weed control and general clutter management was good. The new pier area was spotless. The old pier looked very well too. The signs here are in good condition and the story of the castle is very well made. The hanging baskets are all well cared for.

#### **Residential Areas:**

A sample of housing estates away from the centre of the town were visited. There was generally a very high standard of care and upkeep to be seen. Is there any policy for the use of native trees, shrubs or other plants?

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

The approach roads are extremely good. Some tree-planting could be carried out on some roundabouts. There has obviously been a recent litter patrol and there was no litter to be seen! The new Historic Town signs are excellent. The old pier area is lovely and the tourist information office looks very well. Could Corrigans (fuel merchants) be done up? This is a building with much potential.

#### **General Impression:**

It is clear that your committee has been highly active and that you have achieved much in the last few years. The town centre retains a sense of history while the peripheries of the town show off some lovely landscaping and year-round care. Litter does not seem to be a problem in your town. There are many fine features of which it seems you make good use. Your plan is very good and your communication is highly effective. It is recommended that your group pay close attention to the areas of wildlife and biodiversity and that of waste minimisation and management. Well done to all for what you have achieved to date.