

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dungloe** Ref: **700**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **251**
Category: **C** Date(s): **23/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	251

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Well done on your submission of a very well-planned and laid out entry. The hand-drawn and annotated map was perfect for use. Your entry gives ample evidence of useful collaboration with a number of agencies as well as a wise use of resources within your town. The impression of long-term thinking is gained from your planning and progress seems to be key. Blafar le Cheile does not just apply to your plants, it seems.

The Built Environment:

Well done on your imaginative and useful solution to the gap on the Main Street. The mural is admirable. The Bank of Ireland needs to give their walls a coat of paint. Sweeney's looks good in black and white. The Tourist information office and library (Ionad Teampall Chroine) is a lovely facility and looks well in its historical setting. The exhibition on 'local heroes' is very good and the adjudicator learned a lot from this about the locality and history. The Garda Station looked well. Several pubs have lovely fronts and the restaurant/takeaway is very nicely done. The national school looks rather bare. There is surely room for planting of trees here. Herb and vegetable growing projects are very popular with national schools at the moment. The (RC) Church has immaculate grounds and is a beautifully bright white. The Pobal Scoil has extremely well kept grounds. The school was being worked on at time of visit. Are there no Green Flags in the town? The Lidl looks a little bare but the Aldi and Supervalu both look good. The Public Services offices are extremely modern but look well. The Fire Station is very nice and bright. The hospital grounds are well kept. The Top service station looks quite neat and well.

Landscaping:

Well done on the fine display of hanging baskets. The planters at the Bank of Ireland were full and very pleasant. The trees in the Main Street are lovely. Is there room for more? The benches at the top of the town

are well sited to give a very good aspect of the main street and onto the bay. The planters on the bridge are very nice. The use of the blue tubs was admired. The planting at the Angle was admired and the little piece of ground here is very nice.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on the creation and erection of the nesting boxes. It is essential to look after these so make up a map for permanent display showing location and types of boxes and make sure that these are cleaned out in the right season. The River Walk is a gem. Well done! The wildlife information boards here are very bright, colourful and new. Your idea to use miniatures of the posters for the schools is a good one and an excellent example of reuse.

Litter Control:

Your approach to tackling the problem of litter in Dungloe contains some very laudable strands as well as no small amount of imagination. Litter was seen on day of visit but these areas tended to be isolated.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on promoting composting and especially to the FAS participants for using old paper in the mix! Do continue to promote the new recycling facilities. Use your good contacts with businesses to try to minimise waste at source. Contact the environmental awareness officer at Donegal County Council for help with this. Waste reduction and minimisation projects fit well with the programmes of nascent Green Schools.

Tidiness:

The main shopping areas were very pleasant. Some signs are confusing and it is easy to imagine this being difficult for visitors from abroad. The lack of a 'wire-scape' gives an unhindered view down the hill of the Main Street. There is generally good use of both English and Irish on shops but this could be improved. Graffiti does not seem to be a problem. The sign at the lake is very nice. The old blue street name signs with the crest are very nice but are faded. It would not take much to fix these up.

Residential Areas:

Several areas were visited and a generally good impression of this part of Dungloe was formed. Ard Croinne had great gardens. St Crone Terrace was very neat. No litter or mess were seen. Naomh Anna's has some way to go. However, St Peter's Terrace must get special praise for its wonderful flower beds. Immaculate paving and lovely open gardens were very much enjoyed here.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Most areas visited were of a high standard. In fact, the smaller streets and alleys were remarkably good. Very neat and litter-free.

General Impression:

The overriding impression taken away from Dungloe was of a high level of co-operation. This was borne out time and again both in documentary evidence in your entry and on the ground. You could not have achieved what you have without effective communication and co-operation with residents other groups and outside agencies. Well done to all involved. Address some of the issues raised here and your upward march in this competition is certain.