

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glencolmcille** Ref: **701**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **229**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2009**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2009 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 28 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 30 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 30 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 19 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 30 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 10 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 18 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 25 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 32 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 229 |

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's TidyTowns Competition. You have a good size of committee for the population of your village and you meet regularly. This is important. It is good that your group finds the TidyTowns Competition useful. It is clear that your group is committed to the work you undertake each year. It will assist your work to draw up a plan which reflects your overall strategy. This will greatly help to prioritise the necessary tasks as well as to divide these among the available workforce and volunteers.

The Built Environment:

Dereliction is a problem but not an overriding one for the village. The national school looks fantastic. The Garda Station is a very striking building. Eaglais Naomh Columba is a very unusual building and some further information on this might be a good addition here. The Post Office and shop look well. Halla Mhuire is a fine building but needs repainting. Teach Biddy looks good and Roarty's is a very traditional shopfront. The use of Irish or bilingual signage is good almost throughout. The Oideas Gael building looks very well.

Landscaping:

The playground looks great, the 'wedge-tomb' feature is very unusual. The effort put into the planters and tubs was appreciated. The graveyards are well kept. A few more flowers could make a big difference in some places.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The landscape of the valley here is stunning. Mountains and cliffs form a very dramatic backdrop. The bird

nesting boxes are a useful addition to the habitats of any area. Your idea for bilingual wildlife information boards is good. Ask organisations such as Birdwatch Ireland for their help with this. The walking routes of the glen are a great way to bring visitors into contact with the many wild habitats of the area.

Litter Control:

Some litter was noted on day of visit. Well done on your initiatives to tackle litter. The annual Spring Clean and your weekly clean-ups should take care of most of the problem. Review the position of the existing litterbins and see if any more may be required.

Waste Minimisation:

The information supplied in your entry deals with waste disposal and recycling while this section of the competition deals with the minimisation of waste. You are advised to contact your environmental awareness officer in the County Council for further information on this part of the TidyTowns project.

Tidiness:

There are many signs around the village and most of these are accurate. The Fáilte board at the national school (1989) should be restored but not replaced as it is really very well done. There are several broken walls and the footpaths are cracked in some areas. Most of the commercial buildings in the village are well-painted. The GAA field was very neat and tidy.

Residential Areas:

Most of the private houses were seen to be in good condition. Fr. Mc Dyer Terrace is fantastic. Some of the less colourful houses would benefit from some fresh paint.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Turas Colmcille is really excellent and most enjoyable. There were many walkers in the valley on day of visit. Is there a pamphlet on these stones? The shrine was extremely well kept. The stone steps are very nice. The approach to the village is quite pleasing.

General Impression:

This is a pleasant while rather unusual village in terms of its layout and roads. The village gives the impression of a history which is still alive and the Irish language still in everyday use. Your work is a very important contribution to the landscape and heritage of Ghleanncolmcille. Good luck with the competition in all the following years.