

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glenties** Ref: **702**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **299**
Category: **C** Date(s): **20/06/2009**
31/07/2009

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	299

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thanks also for the provision of such a full and complete entry. The additional information was most helpful, as was the very accurate little map. The larger map helped the adjudicator to put the town in context. A great deal of pride in your town's achievements as well as care for your town today is evident. Thank you for providing the historical information on the town. Your group is undoubtedly well-organised. Your weekly efforts are appreciated and the results speak for themselves.

The Built Environment:

There are many fine and well kept buildings and premises in the town. Derelict sites such as the filling station and Kevlon House are unfortunate but the challenge will be to liaise with owners to manage the sites until occupied. Are there plans for the old chemist's shop? The Garda Station looks very well. The community centre looks really great with very strong colours. Campbells is a nice shop-front and all the colours used around here are good. The museum was closed at time of visit (early evening) but the building looks very well with excellent mural illustration. The old fire station looks great. The planning application notice was seen at the old national school. It is hoped that the lovely mature trees here will be kept. The (RC) church is really splendid, in terms of both the building and grounds. The national school and grounds look great but where was the Green Flag? The playgroup/school opposite was also in good condition. The pubs of the town are a delight on the eye and the adjudicator observed two visitors photographing them for posterity: a good sign. The Highlands Hotel looked fantastic.

Landscaping:

The grotto looks very nice. What about using low-energy light-bulbs here? The grounds of St Columbas are excellently kept. The 'Secret Garden' is fantastic, well done. This site would be perfect for some additional

habitat. What about using the other side of the stream for native species? The new fountain and park are beautiful and nicely designed. The street trees look very well. The planters on the steps up to the Rock estate are a very nice touch and the planting up here is nice. The 'awards area' was greatly admired. Hopefully you've left room for all of your future achievements! The landscaping of the RC church is first-class. The use of the ogham and tree board at the national school is really very good. The flowers at the hotel looked great.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Thank you for the wealth of information you supplied in your pack. The habitats guide is nice but should really be better illustrated and have more detailed information. Your use of native tree and shrub species is to be praised. Your understanding of the key issues in relation to biodiversity and habitats is demonstrated in your biodiversity action plan. Your commitment to the use of native stock is acknowledged. Your approach to grass-cutting is also understood. As suggested in last year's report, some signage to indicate the location, length and rationale for any nature walks is advised.

Litter Control:

Your efforts to control litter and the resources that this takes are acknowledged. Very little litter was seen on day of visit, well done. However, there were several blackspots: there was much chewing gum and many cigarette butts at Limelight /M25. The Costcutter was a further gum blackspot. Some litterbins were overfull (it was a Saturday evening) and may not be used because of this.

Waste Minimisation:

Your entry does not fully address this issue but does touch on some solutions that you have embarked upon in recent times. Namely these are composting, community composting, awareness (very important) and asking shops to reduce the waste packaging. Expand upon these initiatives in future entries and further points will be assured.

Tidiness:

The wire-free townscape was very much appreciated. The mace shopfront looked good but the bin here needs to be washed. There is a very nice fingerpost outside 'Night-hawks' but it needs touching up. The vast majority of shopfronts looked great but the Bank of Ireland looked a bit tatty. The areas around the public houses looked very well indeed.

Residential Areas:

It was difficult to choose which estate to report upon as a very high standard was seen all around. Ard Patrick was excellent. Ard McGill was lovely and not overly decorated. The lawn and shrubs but especially the roses looked good at Dr. Mc Closkey Crescent.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Narin Road looked very well although there was some litter here. The approach to the town was very well done. Your regime to encourage wild plants is appreciated. Some fencing is in need of repair on the N55 (Dungloe Rd.). Road surfaces do not seem to be as bad as your entry would suggest.

General Impression:

The entire town gives the impression of great care being taken. While it is a very busy little town, there does seem to be strong attention to detail. There is a strong emphasis on the aesthetic but also an understanding of issues such as biodiversity. Well done on all your work and good luck with the ongoing task of keeping Glenties so well.

Second Round Adjudication:

Welcome signage provides the visitor with a positive impression when approaching Glenties. The raised stone beds filled with roses make for a colourful display. A petrol station was for sale at the Letterkenny approach and it is to be hoped that it will be re-opened or developed in the not too distant future. The school on this approach was very fresh with well maintained grounds. The Kelvon House in its prominent location had been boarded up and looked a little sad in its prominent location-hopefully it will be restored to its former glory in the not-too-distant future. The landscaping opposite looked magnificent, with its tinkling water feature and colourful floral displays and gravelled beds. Dr Mc Closkey Crescent was well maintained. The Main Street of Glenties was looking well on the day-most of the properties were fresh (the Post Office, Garda Station, Paddy's Bar and the Highlands Hotel being of particular note) trees were maturing nicely and hanging baskets made for colourful displays. The Hall and Community Centre were also in good condition, and the Liam McCormack designed St Conal's Church was admired as ever. The planting at the bridge looked well and

Patrick Mc Gill monument was simply presented and well maintained at this location. Litter control was generally good, with only a single bottle being noted. The former winning town was as well maintained as ever, with a good use of the Irish language evident throughout.