

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lifford** Ref: **1004**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **221**
Category: **C** Date(s): **21/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	221

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your very comprehensive entry form. Please do remember that you can use additional sheets for providing information on your town and your TidyTowns project and do not have to squeeze it all into one form. Thank you for the maps which were accurate and useful but more useful still would be a single map showing the overall area. Thanks for submitting your strategic plan (2009-2011). This could be expanded upon and then broken down by month, task, responsible person etc. this will make it easier for you to keep track of tasks and progress on them as well as making lists of priority. Well done on what you have achieved on this part of the project so far.

The Built Environment:

The Courthouse and the other buildings here at the Diamond are lovely. The Garda Station looks very well. The CDVEC building is very nice. The Donegal County Council building is very modern by comparison. The Foyle-View Pharmacy needs some work. Bannigans pub looks very good as does the Beauty Rooms parlour. All of the public houses looked well. Martin Tyres needs work. Their use of tyres as decoration is highly questionable. The impact of this premises at a key location is very large. The Leprechaun Shop needs to be redecorated. Ulster Bank looks very well. Derelict and disused buildings are a problem. Could these be decorated? Empty windows can be used for free or very cheap advertising.

Landscaping:

The Three Coins sculpture is very good indeed and this entire roundabout is superb. A big effort is being made at St. Judes. The trees, lampposts and planters and benches of the Diamond are great. The tiered planters, bench and tubs by the bridge have activity positive impact on this area. Throughout the town there has been a great effort made with filled tubs, hanging baskets and planters.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on seeking advice for a butterfly area. Many derelict sites in cities have been used for just such a purpose. You are advised to look at wildlife projects in towns of similar size for ideas. Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam are both problematic invasive plants by the river. It is very important that you ask your Conservation Ranger or another wildlife expert before undertaking any work here.

Litter Control:

Well done on all of your anti-litter initiatives so far. Although some litter was seen on day of visit, this was far from extensive. Have you done a litter survey as advised by last year's adjudicator? This will help you to focus efforts and to direct your resources. The schools might take this on as a project. There is plenty of precedent for this.

Waste Minimisation:

Your plan to communicate best practice is good. You must work with all sectors of the community on this part of the competition but schools are again a good place to start. Focussing on the reduction (not recycling) of waste, what ways can Lifford begin to tackle the overall waste burden of the town, its businesses, homes and amenities?

Tidiness:

Fingerposts throughout the town need attention. Weed control is an issue and some areas look very poor. The broken telephone boxes should be repaired or removed. The bins were generally clean and mostly emptied. Empty notice boards don't look good. The North-West Trail signage is excellent.

Residential Areas:

Well done for your contact with the residents' associations. This is a vital part of your work. The estates of St Jude's and Hazelwood both looked well kept and cared-for. Keep up your work with the residents' groups.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads need some work. The name sign at the Balybofey Road appears to have been damaged. The roundabouts are a great feature. The name stones are nice. You should consult with the County Council on plans for improving the approach roads. Several of the side areas of the town are in need of work such as repainting, cleaning or weeding. Are all the street names in the right places? An idea to develop might be to plan a heritage trail. This would be a walking tour of the town as there is undoubtedly lots of history to Lifford.

General Impression:

Although it may seem a daunting task, your TidyTowns project is making a difference and this is tangible. I would suggest that you get in touch with the committee of a similarly-sized town in Donegal that has been a regular entrant into the competition. Your group will be sure to get lots of ideas on possible projects as well as inspiration on solutions to issues that the towns have in common. Your County Council will be happy to support your work where possible and will appreciate you keeping in regular contact with them. Well done on all you have achieved so far, we look forward to having you in the competition for the coming year.