

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Narin-Portnoo** Ref: **601**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **235**
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	235

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's TidyTowns Competition 2009. It is difficult to motivate all residents when you are beginning new initiatives in such projects. Please remember that many other areas have been through this and you are, therefore, advised to seek advice from more long-term established groups. The local authority and National Parks and Wildlife Service will also lend advice. A strategic plan, as recommended by last year's adjudicator is strongly recommended.

The Built Environment:

The Narin Inn is now closed and looks poorly. The owners should be contacted with regard to its upkeep. The Mace shop was very neat and tidy on day of visit. The Church of Ireland church and the parish hall looked very well. The cottages by the pier looked very well. The café at the seafront is very nice and was very neat.

Landscaping:

There is little formal landscaping in this area and the natural aspects would take precedence in this regard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The LIFE project noticeboards at Narin beach were seen and contain good quality information. However, there was little else to be seen. There are no trail markers for the 'Wildlife Walk'. This would require some information or at least markers to tell the walker where it starts or ends. Given the fantastic vista here, what about a pictorially-based information board showing the headland and islands in silhouette? There are some super rockpools here and some information on these would be good. Why not contact a wildlife organisation such as the Irish Wildlife Trust or ask the Conservation Ranger of the National Parks and Wildlife Service for

advice? The old building at the pier would be an excellent place for rockpool and shore-bird information.

Litter Control:

Well done on your anti-litter initiatives to date, as no litter was seen on day of visit. There will always be some litter-picking at the seaside so try to formalise this. Also, let next year's adjudicator know about how this is done. Some anti-litter signs would be good too.

Waste Minimisation:

It is good that the bottle banks are well-utilised. It is recommended that your group focuses on the minimisation of waste. There are several areas to focus upon. Household and community composting are great ways of tackling this. Asking local businesses to reduce the amount of waste packaging is another. Ask your environmental awareness officer (Donegal County Council) for assistance with this.

Tidiness:

The caravan and mobile home/camping area waste neat and no litter was seen. The toilets were closed for works. The pier was neat on day of visit. The bottle banks were quite clean.

Residential Areas:

The majority of houses and gardens looked well cared for. In subsequent entries tell the adjudicator how you communicate with them and how you undertake any initiatives to improve the appearance of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You submitted no information on this section. The approach from connecting roads appeared to be quite good. All road surfaces seemed well maintained. On day of visit, it appeared to be very much in use with walkers and beach users.

General Impression:

This was a very pleasant area to visit and the beach was lovely to walk upon. Your entry gave very little information on how you are approaching the various tasks before you. It is recommended that you consult the Tidy Towns Handbook for guidance. You are strongly advised to consult with other Tidy Towns groups for advice and a fresh look at issues. There are very many strengths to this area in terms of the natural environment and these should be stressed in future entries.