

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bundoran** Ref: **697**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **247**
Category: **C** Date(s): **12/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	50	36	37
Landscaping	50	28	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18	19
Litter Control	50	38	38
Tidiness	30	12	14
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Residential Areas	40	26	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	240	247

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome back Bundoran to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition - and what an exciting year you have had and you have achieved much – well done. Thank you for the detailed file submitted with the relevant information. It is great to see local businesses involved in the TidyTowns Committee. You could consider asking a youth representative from the school and college (maybe from a green schools committee) to meet with the TidyTowns committee for their input. You have submitted a business plan with aims for the future – it may be helpful to expand this. For example, you could put some dates for actions on this. This plan also helps involve key bodies in specific actions that may not require a big time commitment. For example, a youth club could volunteer to make and erect some bird boxes or an active age group could grow tree saplings from seed for families to plant in the future.

Congratulations also in your attendance at training seminars provided by the County Council, provision of free family activities and the wildlife activity sheets are excellent. Your adjudicator was also impressed with your letter to holiday makers - an excellent idea.

The Built Environment:

The 19th Century buildings that form most of the buildings on the main street are lovely to see, especially where they are well cared for such as the AIB building. The Garda station looked well, freshly painted and the Fire Station looked good as did Maddens bar.

Well done in identifying derelict buildings in the town centre and writing to the owners. Whilst not all can be targeted, your work on providing murals in some of these has made a good impact in strategic areas. Some advertising signs were particular nice such as at the Railway Bar and Ruth's Gifts. The Bank of Ireland

building needs a little painting on the wooden side door and once complete will also enhance this area.

Landscaping:

Well done to all who have helped water planters, window boxes etc. With limited resources it was clever to work with the local prison service to assist in the planting of baskets which looked very well at the time of adjudication. Many homes and businesses also had good floral displays such as the Central Hotel. Best of luck with your training application on planting – this is a far sighted initiative and good luck with this. It is suggested that you consider the use of shrubs and perennials to help you save time and costs in the longer term and that this training shows how to split and divide plants in the future to save more money.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your shoreline trail and the seasonal bird watching guides are excellent. Well done. The college had a lovely little garden near its entrance. The amalgamation of the various guides will be of benefit. You could also consider where you could enhance local wildlife through additional hedge planting for example on approach roads on in parks. A very useful publication is available from the Heritage Council 'Conserving and Enhancing Wildlife in Towns and Villages' www.heritagecouncil.ie

Litter Control:

Well done on carrying out the litter audit. Have you drafted some key actions based on the findings? There was some litter on Drumacrin Ave. and in Market Square, Bundoran and a little glass near the bottle banks. However, it should be said that for a busy tourist town the main thoroughfares looked very litter free except for cigarette butts – and your cheeky advert was admired! Sustained work with the business community should help with this.

Tidiness:

There were six empty flag poles on the bridge. Some very tattered flags were on flagpoles on Tullan Strand Road. Some old bunting was also spotted on telegraph poles which needs to be removed. Some temporary signage was noted on the ring road roundabouts but the roads into the town itself had no such signs and were very tidy on adjudication day – well done.

Waste Minimisation:

Work with the National School Green Flag can really help in this category as it is about stopping waste being produced. Thus composting clippings and using them in planters, car boot sales, school book rental scheme etc can help gain marks here.

Residential Areas:

Your residential reward scheme is an excellent idea – well done on Cosgrove's SuperValu and BMG Hardware on sponsoring this. You could also try and get a resident from each estate on your committee.

Homes on Sheil Road looked very well. Gaelic Park Drive had some litter around it. Ross View was very well presented but the large advertising hoarding should be removed and an estate name erected. Likewise a name is needed for another estate further up the Kinlough Road. Maigh Eve House on Main Street looked well. The whole row of homes and the antique shop between Tower Lane and Darty View stood out very nicely. A house by Ruth's Gifts had some lovely old garden railings. There were some lovely bright colours on the boundary walls of homes on Kinlough / Church Road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads around Bundoran were very well maintained – Tullan Strand road and the promenade looked excellent. The breeze block walls of the GAA Park looked quite harsh. Perhaps they could consider painting these or planting ivy or other native climber in the future to help soften this look here?

General Impression:

Bundoran has beautiful natural landscape and the work of the TidyTowns seems to engender pride not just across the whole community but to your many visitors. It was a very enjoyable experience to adjudicate Bundoran – keep up the good work.