

Tidy Towns Competition 2010

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Narin-Portnoo** Ref: **601**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **239**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2010**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009	Mark Awarded 2010
Overall Development Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	50	26	28
Landscaping	50	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24	24
Litter Control	50	40	40
Waste Minimisation	20	8	8
Tidiness	30	18	18
Residential Areas	40	28	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	400	235	239

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Narin-Portnoo to the 2010 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is most important for the Competition. Thank you for your completed entry documentation. Your adjudicator noted that a 3 Year TidyTowns Plan for Narin-Portnoo was not enclosed and this was mentioned in the two previous Reports. This Plan can be prepared by your Committee and will guide your work over the next three year period. You should also identify for each project the Agency / Agencies who may be able to assist you. Considering the large area of Narin-Portnoo your Committee is quite small and you urgently need extra community support. You do not mention the local LEADER Partnership Company. Have you been talking to them about potential grant support for some of your projects? It was noted that you links with the School are through the Youth Club – do you not have any direct links. The TidyTowns involvement with a local School is important as is the involvement of youth in your projects where possible. It is suggested that your TidyTowns Committee makes frequent use of the new TidyTowns Handbook that issued to all the 2009 Competition entries in January / February of this year. If you need an additional copy it is suggested that you contact the TidyTowns Unit in Wexford at 053-9117347. This publication is also available on the Tidy Towns website at www.tidytowns.ie

The Built Environment:

The new toilets for the disabled were visited and this is a well built and finished building. The older block behind has been refurbished but the doors and framework need to be replaced also. The yellow colour of the timberwork here is rather strong. A broken window was noted on the Ladies side of this block. The issue of the Narin Inn still continues – have you been in touch with Donegal County Council to see if they can assist? The old Portnoo Hotel above the Pier is a sorry site and again you should talk with Donegal County Council about this property. They have powers under The Derelict Sites Act that may be useful. The condition of the chalets opposite the Narin Inn does not appear to have improved and urgent action is required here. The repainting of

these properties would make a great contribution to TidyTowns in Narin-Portnoo. Directly opposite the Narin Inn the small house seems to have been painted recently and looked really well. Annora's Pub looked well in a good colour scheme and the containers and planted area were admired. The Church of Ireland has a wonderful location as does the nearby Inniskeel Hall. Some weed growth was evident in the Tarmacadam to the front of the building.

Landscaping:

Your maintenance of existing landscaped areas was noted. Landscaping here needs to be kept simple as you have done. Hanging baskets and flower / plant containers were admired in various parts of Narin-Portnoo.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Nature Walk from the Pier at Portnoo is a wonderful experience but no interpretative signage was evident in the Pier area. This is a lost opportunity. The information panel about the Narin beach is partially hidden away in vegetation and can only be read with difficulty. It needs to be relocated. At Portnoo Pier the hanging baskets and flower containers at the cottages were superbly presented and of just the right scale.

This is International Year of Biodiversity and biodiversity is an aspect of the Competition that your TidyTowns Committee might like to consider for 2011. Your TidyTowns Committee is probably aware that under the terms of the Wildlife Act the cutting of banks and hedges in the period March to August inclusive each year is prohibited. Professional help is most important in respect of wildlife issues and the following sources of advice will prove helpful – An Taisce, Wildlife Ireland, Birdwatch Ireland and the County Heritage Officer. Both beaches are spectacular, very clean and inviting.

Litter Control:

The official signage was missing from the Bottle Bank at the Narin car park. Otherwise the units here were well presented. The addition of the extra green bottle bank unit was noted. Litter control was generally quite good but there were serious exceptions. These were on the Rosbeg road just before the old Hotel where much litter was evident and on the short access road to the Pier area. Just a little litter was evident on Portnoo Pier.

Waste Minimisation:

No new projects were identified under this adjudication category. This adjudication category is primarily about the elimination or reduction of waste in Narin-Portnoo. Recycling though very important takes a lower priority. Therefore for next year it is suggested that you examine the waste situation in Narin-Portnoo to see where reduction might be possible. The Waste Minimisation officer in your Local Authority will be able to advise you also.

Tidiness:

Your entry form mentioned the removal of clutter but did not provide details so your adjudicator could not investigate this work. You also mentioned that fly-posting has been banned. How has this been done and how is it enforced. No fly-posting was observed on the day of the visit. On the Glenties approach road the long high concrete wall on the left before the sloping bank would be greatly improved if painted a dark colour. The map of the Narin-Portnoo area at the Narin / Portnoo road junction is stained and needs to be washed or replaced. In Middle Town the area immediately off the main road would be improved if tidied a little.

Residential Areas:

No new projects were detailed in the entry form. Some well painted properties were seen including a beautifully presented red and white cottage at the Portnoo end of the Narin beach. Overall the standard of residential areas was quite good.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

It is noted that bushes and hedges were trimmed in February last. The main car park at Narin urgently needs to be resurfaced as does the road to the Golf Club. The car park surface is unworthy of such a beautiful area that attracts so many visitors each year. Can Donegal County Council not help? On the Glenties approach the bank of Ferns on the left hand side was much admired and these should be retained. On the road joining Narin-Portnoo the verges had been cut but especially in the Pier area the cut grass had not been removed and looked quite untidy.

General Impression:

The Narin-Portnoo area is a most beautiful one which the adjudicator greatly enjoyed visiting. Do try and get some additional support for your Committee and talk to the LEADER Partnership to see what help they can offer. Good luck with your work for next year when we look forward to returning.

