

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Maghery** Ref: **2029**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **261**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	36	37
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	30	31
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	26	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>261</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Tá an-fháilte roimh An Mhachaire chuig comórtas na bliana seo. Ta sé soiléir go raibh sibh ag ulmhú chuige seo agus tá rian bhur gcuid oibre le feiscint go forleathan. This adjudicator was delighted to see Maghery again after a few years absence. There were notable improvements to be admired arising for the endeavours of your committee. We note how Maghery is placed in the category of a large village and how your committee has eight core members, supported at times by up to twenty volunteers. Well done to all concerned in the projects. Thank you also for the lovely hand-drawn map accompanied with a very good key.

### Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Scoil Roisín commands a lovely situation and its car park offers a fine view. We admired the blue and white mural. Ionad an Mhachaire is a marvelous resource and we found the public toilets in clean condition. We noticed the large industrial-type building behind the graveyard and wondered whether it might be painted either dark green or olive green to minimize its visual impact. Maghery Bay Salon looked very fine, with its recently painted exterior. The Strand Bar was well presented.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

We stopped at the green where we used the picnic benches. It is a great place to sit and listen to the breaking waves, looking out at the blue expanse of the bay. There were plenty of people enjoying the good weather. The Strand Park pitch is well managed and we found it very clean. It certainly appears to offer a great local amenity. We commend the committee on the repair to the boardwalks. The strength of the wind could be felt there, even on such a glorious summer day. Well done.

### Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

At the green there were plenty of birds and in the river we spotted a large trout, surely a good sign of the cleanliness of the water there and a good result for all your recent work.

In a few places we paused to observe the wheatears that were flitting about. One of our closest views came on the way down to the graveyard. Elsewhere we noticed the bird boxes and we now hope that they are proving to be a success this year. One of your greatest assets is the very fine beach and this is a real wildlife resources as well as, of course, being a great amenity. On the day of our visit there were many wild ducks feeding off the seaweed near the rocks.

### Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

The bring centre at Ionad an Mhacahire was in fine condition. We note your comments regarding the change in public attitudes that has brought an end to dumping in the river. This really is something to celebrate. The emphasis now is on the reduction of waste generation (in the first instance) and ways of achieving this include reduced packaging, rainwater harvesting, etc. This is a category where Maghery can pick up more marks and you may seek advice from the County Council regarding your strategy.

#### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

We were impressed with the high standard we saw on all sides. All around Ionad an Mhachaire was very well tended. The car park was busy and litter-free, the public toilets were spotless and the colorful planters certainly brighten up the place further. We saw the good outcome at the bridge and admired how you have maintained the natural stone appearance of the river banks. On the day of our visit the sun was shining and up above us we saw the famous clouds as painted by Paul Henry, something that added greatly to the location. The playground was in full swing and we commend you for its refurbishment. Reilig an Mhachaire is very well cared for and it benefits a lot from its picturesque setting and tranquility. Well done.

#### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

We praised the well-kept houses we saw on the entrance from the Dungloe side. We likewise admired the thatched cottage with the braced roof (with donkeys alongside). The Rectory (holiday cottage) was well presented as were the Weaver Street cottages (especially the one with the green door). Overall, the holiday homes we saw looked bright and cheerful, many of them adorned with planting such as window boxes. We accept that you are doing all you can in regard to the old rectory.

#### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

Your road network is in good condition. Maghery enjoys an extra benefit from the bright boardwalks. We noted that surface markings were missing on the approach roads. The roadside walls were seen to be in fine condition and the graveyard offers a distinctive landmark view from the nearby roads. We saw what you have to say about the impact of the sand that is cast in from the sea. This surely is something arising from your Atlantic location and you are dealing well with this on-going issue. Well done.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

Your application made a very good impression and I thank your committee for the work carried out this year. Many local people will benefit from the brighter surroundings and visitors will also appreciate the enthusiasm to improve the environment. Tá moladh tuilte agaibh gan dabht.