

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **GLENTIES**  
County : **DONEGAL**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	28	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	28	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	9	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>232</b>

## **Glenties, County Donegal**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the very comprehensive information sent with the application form. It is clear from the information and observation that the tidy Towns committee does not rest on its laurels and that continual progress and development are a priority. Congratulations on the "Green Flag" award. Regardless of awards and acclamation the results of the tidy towns work in Glenties benefits very many people continually and that is the most important aspect.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Church and School grounds play a significant part in determining the atmosphere of the town. In particular the unifying paths of the Church around by the back and the two adjacent schools makes a lovely environment both for school children and Church attendees. The Garda station situated in a custodial position and the fire station are well tended. At the other end of the town a large school cannot be concealed behind the grotto. The building is not the most attractive especially for a rural location but the condition of the building and the surrounding landscape ameliorates the block shaped building. The entrance wall is unattractive compared to the many stone walls in the town - even the wall next to it at the Health Centre. Replacing this wall with a natural stone wall would be good. The main street has good quality presentation of the buildings. Removal of the overhead cables will come in time and this will help. The Kevlon Hotel looks a little dreary which is a shame as it occupies such a prominent position. The wall/bridge in the street could be a little lower for all but the tallest to get a glimpse over. The public houses are highly painted and display signs of entertainment attractions.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Glenties excels in this regard and there are so many fine projects undertaken over the years. The riverside garden adjoining Ard McGill estate is a lovely feature. This will require more plants and better finish to the log roll edging and time for maturity. The other side of the bank now beckons for similar treatment and an adjoining ornamental footbridge.

The Church grounds create a wonderful atmosphere. The large trees of beech and conifers together with the dense planting of shrubs makes a beautiful setting. The most important tree in the town is the large sycamore behind the grotto at the top of the town. This forms a frame for the grotto and is a focus or focal point as you come up the town rather than the school building. The people who planted this could not have expected to see it in its present splendour. This tree serves to remind us to plant trees now for the next two or three generations to enjoy. The landscaping at Ard Connel estate deserves special mention as the task was very difficult given the unusually shaped and

mounded ground. It is unfortunate that the electric pole with all its diverging cables must remain at the centre like a monument to rural electrification. Dr. Mc Closkey Crescent and the roadside park outside are noteworthy too as is the park above the fire station by the school- a lovely area to have beside a school.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The retention of the wall plants- ferns, mosses etc. on the wall in the park beside Scoil Naom Conall is excellent. These are a study in themselves. The country walks with their clear signposting are a nice addition to the towns amenities. Streamside and riverside walks are always attractive and if there was any possibility of access from the main street to the river and the creation of a walk that would emerge at another point this would be marvellous.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter is a problem nationally and its no surprise to find litter in the main street of Glenties. The cattle grid at the school by the grotto seems to contain all the lost litter of the town.

## **TIDINESS**

Glenties has a really smart appearance and the attention to detail-such as the planters positioned up the steps to the Rock estate symbolises this. The positioning of the recycle bins out of the public view is a good idea.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Each residential area has very attractive landscaping. These have been mentioned above. The houses are well kept and the gardens especially in the ArdConnel estate are really well maintained. At Ard Patrick the green is well maintained with paths placed at the desire lines. The stone wall outside is attractive although the finish on the top with stones embedded in concrete is disappointing-compared with the top finish on the wall at Scoil Naom Conall. Separate private houses display beautiful gardens and contribute greatly by their efforts to the appearance of the town. The residence beside the "LIMELIGHT" is sadly neglected but in a way it provides a romantic atmosphere and the vegetation meeting at the centre of the path adds a dreamy feel to the place.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The main street is well cared for with some attention to the pavement needed. Resurfacing and remaking of roads in the vicinity give a smart entrance to the town. The timber fence on the Portnoo road needs attention in several places.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Glenties is a very welcome place with its great greenery of trees,

shrubs and well tended grass. There is a great sense of pride and commitment and an excellent programme of maintenance.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/98)**

Glenties the former winner of the Tidy Towns Competition is set in magnificent surroundings of mountains and water. The retention of the traditional nameplate signs is highly commendable. The town generally looked well on second adjudication day, however, there are still one or two problem areas. The gates to the school by the grotto and the dramatic gateway to the church were quite rusty and should be re-painted. The Kevlon House Hotel looked most unfortunate in its prominent position on Main Street as you enter the town. The gable badly needed painting and weeds were evident to the gutter. It is to be hoped that the partially completed building adjacent will soon be completed. Quite a bit of litter was evident along Main Street, on the Narin Road and many of the litter bins were overflowing. These latter could also have been freshly painted. The Rosses Restaurant & Bar could be freshened up as it looked quite flaky. The Highland Hotel was in the process of being painted on adjudication day and John-Joe's Bar looked very cheerful. The curved canopies to the Glen Inn should be removed as they are inappropriate. Rear areas and sheds on the Church Road needed some attention and the latter should be freshly painted in a cheerful red or green traditional colour. Some of the houses on the Ard Patrick Estate looked quite neglected in comparison to the freshly painted ones. The attractive gardens on the Narin Road were admired. The landscaped areas such as that to Father McCluskey Crescent and the Ard McGill Estate were admired. Weeds were evident to the steps by the Garda Station. Although the town generally looked well weed control and litter was obviously a problem on the day.