

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Medium Town Category)**

Place Name:- Cookstown

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- July 11, 2017

Weather conditions:- Dry & Bright

Category Entered: Medium Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGE'S REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) **General Appearance:**

The first roundabout on the southern approach was striking with its metal sculptures and floral displays. Verges on all approaches were very well maintained and this continued throughout the town specifically the "Main Street" being tree lined and floral borders.

(2) **General Cleanliness and Tidiness:**

With exception of a few areas with cigarette butts and chewing gum the town was very clean and tidy.

(3) **Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):**

Generally the business premises are well kept and presented. There were a few exceptions of derelict properties on James St.

(4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces:**

All the children's play areas are modern and well used, popular with many children.

(5) **Presentation of immediate private residential areas including house frontages and gardens:**

House frontages were generally very well maintained, with the exception of some houses in Lime Court on Coach Street which were overgrown with tall weeds.

(6) **Evidence of Business and Community Involvement:**

Although the judges found no direct evidence of community and business involvement there is a wide variety of family businesses and the town is obviously thriving.

(7) **Judge's Discretionary Mark:**

It was a pleasure to visit Cookstown which has a very positive musical impact.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) The very pleasing aspect of the whole town
- (ii)
- (iii) On going litter picking

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) Derelict properties could be better maintained

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Village Category)**

Place Name:- Moneymore

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- July 2, 2017

Weather conditions:- Cloudy/Bright

Category Entered: Large Village

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)
*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General appearance:

MONEYMORE VILLAGE IS A PLEASANT HISTORIC VILLAGE
WHICH CARRIES A HEAVY THROUGH TRAFFIC
GOOD APPROACH ROADS AND SIGNS.
" FLOWER TUBS AND BASKETS
" ST. LIGHTING.

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness:

PLEASANT AND CLEAN. NO GRAFFITI SEEN.
GOOD LITTER BINS AND DOG FOLLING BINS
(GOOD CIVIC AMENITY CENTRE ON MONEYHAW ROAD)
} ALSO RECREATION CENTRE WITH GOOD PLAYING FIELDS
SOME LITTER
A LITTLE FOOTPATH ADVERTISING AT SPAN SHOP ON MACKERFELL
ROAD.

(3) Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

A BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE CENTRE WITH HISTORIC BUILDINGS
AND INFORMATIVE BLUE SIGNS. COULD DO WITH REVITALISING
TO THESE GEORGIAN BUILDINGS MARKET HOUSE AND MARKET
SQUARE - POST OFFICE INTERESTING. MAYBE A RICH
ENTREPRENEUR WILL RESTORE AND BRING BACK TO ITS
FORMER GLORY.

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces

OPEN SPACE WELL KEPT AND CUT. - BRIDGER ROAD CORNER -
GOOD FLOWER DISPLAY - ALSO MID VICTOR VEHICLE CLUB DISPLAY WITH
DAN FERGUSON TRACTOR
MANOR PARK AT MINISTERS WALK - GOOD OPEN SPACE - SOME LITTER
BINS FULL. MAZE OVERGROWN
GOOD PICNIC AREA AND SEATING ON COOKTOWN ROAD ENTRANCE

(5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas including house frontages and gardens:

GOOD PRIVATE & PUBLIC HOUSING GALLION HEIGHTS AND
VILLAGE MANOR & MAZE. GOOD EXTERIORS AND GARDENS
GREAT OPEN SPACES WITH PLANTED TREES

(6) Evidence of Business and Community Involvement

MAYBE A LITTLE MORE INVOLVEMENT
IN REVITALISING VILLAGE CENTRE
ST PATRICK'S CHURCH & ST JOHN'S CHURCHES ALSO
MONEYMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL - GOOD FEATURES. ALSO
HEALTH CENTRE - MONEYMORE CARE HOME

(7) Judge's discretionary mark and comments

SO INTERESTING TO VISIT SURROUNDING AREAS
LIVELY AND WELL KEPT

GOOD SIGNAGE

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) GOOD OPEN SPACES WITH TREE PLANTING
- (ii) WELL KEPT IN SPITE OF HEAVY THROUGH TRAFFIC
- (iii) HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) OPEN INDUSTRIAL SITES COULD BE SURROUNDED
- (ii) AND MORE PLEASANTLY HIDDEN
- (iii) ... TO LOVELY HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Village Category)**

Place Name:- Stewartstown

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 03/07/2017

Weather conditions:- Sunny & Dry

Category Entered: Small Village

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General appearance:

CLEAR TOWN SIGNS, VEHICLES TRIMMED
AMPLE BINS AND SEATING BUT SOME ARE NOT
CLEANED & PAINTED. AREA AROUND SQUARE DECORATED
WITH BASKETS & PILLS.

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness:

GENERALLY CLEAN & TIDY BUT PAVEMENT
IN SQUARE DIRTY - NEEDS POWDER HOSED.
NO VANDALISM, GRAFFITI ETC.

(3) Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

COMMERCIAL AREAS CLEAN & TIDY. NO
EXCEPTIONAL PRESENTATION OR OBSTRUCTION

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces

ST PATRICKS CHURCH / ST MARYS SCHOOL / STEWARTSON
PS ALL WELL PRESENTED

(5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas including house frontages and gardens:

ALL MIXTURE OF WELL PRESENTED AND SOME
LESS ATTRACTIVE

(6) Evidence of Business and Community Involvement

NO SPECIFIC EVIDENCE. SOME AREAS
SHOW MORE ATTENTION THAN OTHERS

(7) Judge's discretionary mark and comments

TOILETS USABLE BUT VERY POORLY CLEANED
OR SUPPLIED. NOTHING BAD BUT NOT
SPECIFIC ISSUES

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) SQUARE AREA FOR SEATING + PLANTING

(ii)

(iii)

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) SQUARE AREA SEATING + PLANTING NEEDS CLEANED

(ii) PUBLIC TOILETS POOR

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Village Category)**

Place Name:- Ballyronan

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 03/07/2017

Weather conditions:- Sunny & Dry

Category Entered: Small Village

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)
*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General appearance:

GOOD TOWN VISION SIGN + GRASSY AREAS CUT
AMPLE CAR PARKING AT MARINA. CLEAN + TIDY
AMPLE SING + SEATING. SUBSTANTIAL FLOWER
TUBS / BASKETS IN VILLAGE

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness:

GENERAL CLEAN + TIDY. LITTLE FRESH LITTER
NO VANDALISM OR GRAFFITI ETC

(3) Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

PHONE BOX IN BAD REPAIR - IN USE?
SMALL COMMERCIAL CLEAN + TIDY - NO POOR
SIGNAGE

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces

MARINA BIRDWATCHING HIDE. BALLYROHAN WOOD
AND LOCH WALKS TIDY. TOWN WELL DECORATED
WITH BASKETS + TUBS - NOT AS FINE AS SOME OTHER
VILLAGES. FLORAL BOAT ON SHORE ROAD

(5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas including

the frontages and gardens:

SMALL VILLAGE WELL KEPT
PRIVATE HOUSING WELL PRESENTED

MANY HOMES
WITH GARDENS

(6) Evidence of Business and Community Involvement

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND AREA, NO SPECIFIC
LOCAL "GROUP" BUT ENTIRE VILLAGE NEAT
& TIDY

(7) Judge's discretionary mark and comments

PLEASANT CLEAN & TIDY BUT NOT OVER PROMOTED

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) MARINA AREA WELL DEVELOPED
- (ii) CARAVAN PARK FACILITIES AT MARINA
- (iii)

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) TELEPHONE BOX COULD BE CLEANED OR REMOVED
- (ii)
- (iii)

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Village Category)**

Place Name:- Coagh

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 03/07/2017

Weather conditions:- Sunny & Dry

Category Entered: Small Village

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General appearance:

CLEAR ROAD SIGNS AND VEHICLES TRIMMED
AMPLE PARKING BINS SEATS IN SMALL VILLAGE
LOWER PART OF TOWN WELL LIT OUT IN SECTIONS

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness:

GENERALLY GOOD. BUS STATION (FOR SOME)
A S. PROPOSED EXCHANGE AREAS BIT UNTIDY
NO VANDALISM ETC

(3) Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

BUS STOP OK PHONE BOX OK
SMALL COMMERCIAL AREAS PLAIN BUT CLEAN
+ TIDY NO FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTION

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces

ATTRACTIVE STREET PLANNING WITH SQUARE FLOWER
BEDS + CHERRY TREES. PLAY AREA AT BRIDGE CLEAN
+ TIDY.

(5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas including house frontages and gardens:

"FINWOBAR" AREA SOME SPECIAL FLORAL AREAS
ALL VILLAGE HOUSES CLEAN + TIDY - NO POOR
AREAS

(6) Evidence of Business and Community Involvement

NO SPECIFIC COMMUNITY PROGRAMS BUT
MANY AREAS INDICATE VILLAGE PRIOR

(7) Judge's discretionary mark and comments

VERY CLEAN TOWN/SHORE/DISABLED TOILET AT BRIDGE
RECYCLE AREAS

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) HIGH TEE TOLLS FREE AND WELL APPOINTED
- (ii) PARK AREA AND RIVERSIDE WALK PARKS
- (iii)

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) RE DEVELOP RUC STATION SITE

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Village Category)**

Place Name:- Pomeroy

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 17/07/2017

Weather conditions:- Warm & Sunny

Category Entered: Small Village

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

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In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General appearance:

Ornamental signs with floral displays on main approach roads. The sign post for Pomeoy @ junction of Pomeoy Rd & Tanderagee Rd on B4 is missing & there are no street name signs in centre of village. Adequate on street car parking & mature car parks behind business premises off the main st. There's good public seating & basic DfL street lighting with ornamental lighting in square & side of Church of Ireland, but could be more little lights. There were some long term & fresh litter. No re-cycling centre in village apart from clothes bins in chapel & school grounds.

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness:

There was some long term & fresh litter e.g. along Tanderagee Rd, in Pomeoy Yacht walk & road entrance/approach to GAA grounds & outside shops on main st opposite C of I. No vandalism or graffiti but fly posting noted on electric box in square behind C of I. Tree standing boundary on footpath in sq. No dog fouling although no dog foul bins.

(3) Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

Some attractive well maintained business frontages with floral displays around the square in village centre, but a few dull properties e.g. along the approach to the forest walk from the entrance at the 30 sign on Tanderagee Rd & beside ornamental name sign & floral display on approach on B4 from Camichmore side. No obvious dereliction except a couple of neglected waste ground areas, as small as off the main st on left @ Tanderagee Rd approach to village & on left to Camichmore. Bus shelters in good order.

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces

The Pomeoy Yacht walk @ the entrance to the village is a lovely natural area enhanced with sculptures done by local children in collaboration with local artist. Evidence base of conservation of flora & fauna - information boards re local fauna e.g. habitat for common lizard & species under threat. Good well maintained sports area @ GAA grounds, lots of colour in the square & well maintained old graveyard site on right leaving the village to Camichmore. Unfortunately there was evidence of long term & fresh litter in all areas.

(5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas including house frontages and gardens:

Good well kept residential areas & house frontages e.g. Cabhan Ahuinn & Shennary Pl. with impressive sculpture at entrance. Although there were some displays there could be more planting & colour. School & Church grounds in the village are all well maintained.

(6) Evidence of Business and Community Involvement

Community resources centre in the main at information on local events & involvement. The effort made by some businesses & residents to maintain verges & add colour & interest. Sculpture done by local children & artist in Pavey Forest.

(7) Judge's discretionary mark and comments

This is a friendly village, but unfortunately no public toilets which I had when I arrived. Ashpinner in the square very kindly let me use it in his premises. Good public seating all around, but evidence of some fresh litter. Although there are lots of informative boards about the village, I couldn't identify street names in village centre as I couldn't see any. I liked the forest walk, the sculptures & outdoor gym. Although many promises to residents were colourful some were not.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) The Pavey Forest Walk
- (ii) Good Public Seating
- (iii) The sculptures in the Forest & C. Sharnock Pk.

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) Toilet facilities
- (ii) More and strategically placed litter bins to address littering
- (iii) Signage - street names in village centre to replace missing road & junction at Pavey & Tansley - Rd.

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Medium Town Category)**

Place Name:- Dunganon

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- July 17, 2017

Weather conditions:- Warm & Sunny

Category Entered: Medium Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)
*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGE'S REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) **General Appearance:**

The approach roads were well maintained with good signage and floral enhancement. The refurbished Market Square is very attractive with street furniture and sculptures. The O'Neill area and Ranfurly House are great assets, as are the Arts Centre and the parks areas. The street lighting is very good with the absence of unscape.

(2) **General Cleanliness and Tidiness:**

The presence of litter was disappointing in many areas of the town. Church Lane needs to be cleaned up, in the centre of the town and the judges saw graffiti and fly-posting in a few areas.

(3) **Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):**

Business premises were generally in good condition with a few exceptions for example Perry Street. A vacant site on one of the approach roads has been screened by a fence carrying historical photographs. The public buildings were all tidy and maintained to a high standard.

(4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces:**

Dungannon Park is a beautiful area and well maintained as is the Railway Park. O'Neill Hill is very attractive and well laid out, especially for the disabled.

(5) **Presentation of immediate private residential areas including house frontages and gardens:**

Dungannon has a wide variety of residential areas and some of which are not well maintained.

(6) **Evidence of Business and Community Involvement:**

The judges found that this was difficult to identify. Most of the recent improvement being public Realm works.

(7) **Judge's Discretionary Mark:**

The improvements to Market Square and the Hill of O'Neills and Rafterley House Arts Centre have greatly enhanced the town

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) Dungannon Park
- (ii) Hill of O'Neills and visitors centre
- (iii) Market Square

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) Weedy waste areas
- (ii) Run-down vacant properties
- (iii) Church Lane

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Town Category)**

Place Name:- Coalisland

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- June 2, 2017

Weather conditions:- Bright & Sunny

Category Entered: Small Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES' REMARKS
(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General Appearance:

A very average provincial town which does not have any distinguishing features. From a distance approach roads looked reasonable but on closer viewing many had lots of litter strewn around and some had overgrown grass verges. Car parks, public seating and litter bins are provided and street lighting seems satisfactory. Direction signs are in place but the central area is devoid of street names. Re-cycling facilities are provided on Derry Road.

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness:

General tidiness and presentation left a lot to be desired. A combination of fresh and long term litter was evident in many areas. Some graffiti, fly posting and inappropriate advertising were also present in places. Vandalism or dog fouling does not appear to be a problem.

(3) Business Premises: Decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

Commercial and business properties fall into two categories, ie old and new. The old properties, mainly in the town centre, are 'tired' looking and would benefit greatly from basic maintenance. The Gortgonis Sports Pavilion is excellent in appearance. A coin operated public toilet is sited in one of the car parks. Well maintained designated bus stops and shelters were the only sign of public transport facilities.

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces:

Most open spaces are neat but unfortunately many areas are spoiled with litter. The sports grounds, Brackaville GFC complex and children's play park being the exception. There is no evidence to suggest there is any active interest in promoting conservation. On the plus side, while visiting, we did see a council employee gather litter from streets in the town centre.

(5) Presentation of immediate private residential areas including house frontages and gardens:

With very few exceptions private properties are well cared for and most dwellings have neat, tidy and nicely appointed gardens. Many have flower displays in the form of hanging baskets. Unfortunately, in keeping with other open spaces, some residential areas had litter strewn around and weeds were allowed to prosper on kerb sides, etc.

(6) Evidence of Business and Community Involvement:

There is no obvious sign to indicate there is any community involvement in the upkeep of the town.

(7) Judge's discretionary mark:

The presentation of this town is disappointing. With a little effort the untidiness could be greatly reduced. Likewise the traders could brighten the appearance of their premises which would make their town more aesthetic.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) Gortgonis Sports Complex
- (ii) GFC grounds
- (iii)

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) Provide street identification
- (ii) Remove litter
- (iii)

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Village Category)**

Place Name:- Caledon

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 12/06/2017

Weather conditions:- Cloudy & Dry

Category Entered: Small Village

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)
*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General appearance:

ROAD SIGNS NEED CLEANING & REPAIR SOME STREET SIGNS MISSING. AND A STREET FACINGS SEATING & BINS.
PLEASANT VILLAGE WITHOUT ANY SPECTACULAR POINTS.

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness:

SOME FRESH LITTER BUT GENERALLY CLEAN & TIDY.
NO LONG TERM LITTER, VANDALISM OR GRAFFITI, ETC.
CHURCHILL P.S. WELL KEPT & TIDY
FOOTPATHS NEED POWER HOSEING.

(3) Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

SMALL BUSINESS AREA NOT OBTRUSIVE
RECYCLING AT CHURCHILL

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces

MILL PARK AREA CLEAR BUT NOT PROMOTED. PICNIC AREA
BULL KINNARD PARK PLAN. B

(5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas including house frontages and gardens:

MAIN STREET HOUSES WELL KEPT & GARDENS
SOME AREAS BEING DEVELOPED.

(6) Evidence of Business and Community Involvement

NO EVIDENCE: MOST PROMOTION SEEMS TO BE
FROM LOCAL SOURCES

(7) Judge's discretionary mark and comments

PLEASANT VILLAGE BUT NOT PROMOTED IN
APPEARANCE

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) KINWARD HISTORIC AREA PRESENTATION

(ii)

(iii)

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) KALIDON ARMS HOTEL EMPTY - COULD BE TIDIED UP

(ii) GENERAL FOOTPATH CLEARING

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Village Category)**

Place Name:- Castlecaulfield

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 03/07/2017

Weather conditions:- Sunny & Dry

Category Entered: Small Village

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General appearance:

VERY GOOD PRESENTED VILLAGE. ABUNDANCE OF
TREES, BASKETS & "SPECIAL" MONTAGES.
ROADS ARE CLEAR, ROADSIDES CUT, LITTER BINS, SEAS
AMPLE

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness:

ALL AREAS CLEAN & TIDY. PLAYING AREA WELL KEPT
NO LITTER, DEFECATIONS OR CRAP.

(3) Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

COMMERCIAL ROAD CENTRE - STREET APV. NOT
OBSTRUCTIVE

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces

VILLAGE FLORAL PRESENTATIONS TOO NUMEROUS TO
MENTION BUT SOME ARE SPECIFICALLY
"CASTLE" AREA PLANT NOT SPECIFICALLY

(5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas including house frontages and gardens:

THE TOWN CENTRE BUILDINGS WERE ALL VERY
WELL PRESENTED. SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENTS WERE
CLEAN AND WELL MAINTAINED

(6) Evidence of Business and Community Involvement

ALMOST ALL DECORATIVE AREAS CARRIED A
SPONSOR'S NAME. GREAT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

(7) Judge's discretionary mark and comments

VERY WELL CLEANED, TIDIED & PROMOTED VILLAGE
CREDIT TO COUNCIL & RESIDENTS

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) ABUNDANCE OF "SPRINGS" FLORAL TUBS/BASKETS ETC
- (ii) COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
- (iii)

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) CARP AREA NOT A "DRAW"
- (ii)
- (iii)

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Village Category Final Round)**

Place Name:- Caslecaulfield

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- August 28, 2017

Weather conditions:- Overcast, Drizzle Showers

Category Entered: Small Village

Limits Used: Welcome Sign

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
2017 BEST KEPT AWARDS
JUDGING SHEET (VILLAGE CATEGORY)**

Place Name: CASTLECAULFIELD Local Authority: MID ULSTER

Date: 28th AUGUST 2017 Weather conditions: OVERCAST, DRIZZLE SHOWERS

Category Entered: **SMALL VILLAGE – FINAL ROUND JUDGING**

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limit (delete as appropriate).

For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in the absence of the former). In some cases a judge should use his/her discretion, e.g. where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years, near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits in the village being judged.

Please state which limits you used: WELCOME SIGN

	Maximum Marks Available	Marks Awarded
1. General appearance including approach roads, road signs, car parks, litter bins public seating, street lighting and welcome signs.	55	50
2. General cleanliness and tidiness including absence of long term and fresh litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.	55	49
3. Business premises including general appearance, appropriate signage, efforts to improve dereliction, maintenance and appearance of public transport facilities.	30	28
4. Natural environment and open spaces including presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna.	20	18
5. Presentation of private and residential areas including house frontages and gardens.	25	20
6. Evidence of business and community involvement.	5	5
7. Judge's discretionary mark including, the appearance of car parks and public toilets (if present).	10	9
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>179</u>

JUDGES REMARKS

1. General appearance:

At the flower-festooned Welcome sign on entering the village on the Donaghmore approach road initial impression is one of colour. There are flowers everywhere! The sign announcing Castlecaulfield as the Best Kept Village in 2016 is displayed with pride. There are shrubs, roses, flower-filled planters on stands and hanging baskets on lamp posts. The road was free of any litter. At the entrance to the main street was a flower bed in the shape of a maple leaf representing the 150 year (1867-2017) connection with Canada, in both English and French sponsored by the Castlecaulfield in Bloom Horticultural Society. There is also a bed of planted flax to represent the historical connection with the linen trade. Another bed of flowers is sponsored by the local nursery. The Dungannon approach road has a meadow-type wildflower area planted along the road side. Good signage and street lighting. Information Board on the Torrent Valley. Plentiful public seating. Dog waste bin. Litter bins, freshly painted, some in gold. On-street parking. Clean public telephone box and red pillar box. Recycling centre with (and it almost goes without saying!) floral plantings.

2. General cleanliness and tidiness:

No litter, fresh or long-term. No vandalism or graffiti, but some flyposting on the electricity/BT box which detracts. Small amount of wirescape. No dog fouling.

3. Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

Business premises on the main street are well kept and look very smart. The Church of Ireland has lovely colourful plantings and beautifully kept grounds. The Presbyterian and Methodist Churches and grounds were both tidy, as were the Orange Hall and the Memorial Hall. The castle grounds looked well maintained with tastefully done flower-filled barrel and flower bed. The Walker Memorial Primary School and grounds looked neat with an attractive feature of a painter's palette planted with flowers. The sports ground was tidily kept.

4. Natural Environment and Open Spaces:

Every available open space in the village was planted with flowers and, shrubs. There were many attractive floral features including a small model replica castle, a floral butterfly and flower bed sponsored by AgriPro and the Food Centre, the village pump with floral surround, a stone lorry and toy tractor planted with flowers, and a railway tender, wheelbarrow and trap all planted with flowers. Part of a large open area has been cordoned off and planted with meadow wildflowers to encourage birds, insects and wild life to increase bio-diversity.

5. Presentation of immediate private residential areas including house frontages and gardens:

Residential areas and frontages were uniformly well maintained, some with attractive gardens. Residences on the main street were very smart. Caulfield Glen housing development was well maintained with tidy frontages. Dunrainey Avenue pensioners' cottages looked neat and tidily kept and Dunrainey Gardens were similarly tidy and without litter – it had freshly painted litter bins, some in gold.

6. Evidence of Business and Community Involvement:

There is ample evidence of community involvement, not only in the well-presented buildings and floral decorations throughout the village, but also by the notices of local sponsorship which abound – too numerous to name individually.

7. Judge's discretionary mark and comments:

As mentioned, visitors are left with the impression of flowers everywhere. Any space where flower beds, window boxes, planters or hanging baskets can be displayed, is utilised. The overall impact is one of colour. The business and residential community are wholeheartedly entering into the Best Kept Small Village and also Ulster in Bloom. This smart looking village is proud of its heritage and it shows.

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i)** Community involvement and business sponsorship.
- (ii)** Abundance of floral plantings and decorative features.
- (iii)**

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i)** Removal of fly-posting on electricity/BT box.
- (ii)**
- (iii)**

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Village Category)**

Place Name:- Donaghmore

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 03/07/2017

Weather conditions:- Sunny & Dry

Category Entered: Small Village

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General appearance:

VERY ATTRACTIVE VILLAGE. STREETS CLEAN,
TIDY AND NUMEROUS FLORAL PRESENTATION.
AMPLE SEATING, BIRDS FEEDERS ETC

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness:

EXCELLENT NO LITTER, VANDALISM OR
DEFECATION

(3) Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

GENERALLY WELL MAINTAINED & PRESENTED. TWO
LARGE ADVERTISING POSTERS ALONGSIDE FOOTPATH.

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces

ABUNDANCE OF FLORAL BASKETS, TUBS & SPECIAL
PRESENTATIONS. THE HIGH CROSS SPECIAL FEATURE

(5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas including house frontages and gardens:

GENERALLY GOOD BUT SOME HOUSE PROPERTIES
NOT UP TO STANDARD. QUITE A FEW HOUSES BEING
RENOVATED / IMPROVED

(6) Evidence of Business and Community Involvement

VILLAGERS JOIN IN PRESENTATION OF OWN HOMES
AND SEVERAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES.

(7) Judge's discretionary mark and comments

VERY PLEASANT VILLAGE TO VISIT. SOME
LOCALS VERY WELCOMING.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) VERY NUMEROUS "SPECIAL" PLANTINGS
- (ii) HIGH CROSS WELL PRESENTED
- (iii)

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) CURRENT PRESENTATION WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO IMPROVE
- (ii)

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Village Category Final Round)**

Place Name:- Donaghmore

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- August 28, 2017

Weather conditions:- Light Rain

Category Entered: Small Village

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGE'S REMARKS

Donaghmore

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General Appearance:

From the welcome signs before one even reaches the village, Donaghmore is a riot of flowers. Public seating, litter bins and street lighting and signage all enhanced by colourful planting. There are plenty of information boards, eg one beside the Brewers House which lists sites of historic interest in the area. On the Dungannon road there is a floral railway carriage created from old barrels, referencing Donaghmore's historic past.

The most striking item in the village is the High Cross which is believed to date from the 11th century. It stands at the head of the town and is enhanced by planters and hanging baskets. Unfortunately someone decided that it would be a good idea to set up a large billboard advertising a charity tractor rally right beside the historic and sacred monument. In truth they are only following the example of the powers that be who have shown lack of respect and also decided that it would be a good idea to surround the cross with traffic signs eg for traffic bumps and directions to nearby places. We saw tourists trying to take photos of the cross without including these 21st century signs. It would be difficult.

(2) General Cleanliness and Tidiness:

The whole village is neat and tidy, No graffiti, fly-posting or dog dirt. The re-cycling area at the garage on the Pomeroy Road is excellent. The whole area is neat and clean, even behind the buildings. The only fresh litter was a small amount beside the grounds of the GAA.

(3) Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

The shop frontages are well presented, many enhanced with planters and window boxes. The windows of an empty shop opposite the High Cross are used to display posters and information. A better place for the tractor poster? (see above) .The business park is excellent

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces:

The grounds of the ancient graveyard behind the High Cross should have the grass cut more frequently. There is a huge weed just inside the gate.

St Patrick's Primary School has neat and tidy grounds. The grounds of St Joseph's Grammar School are in good order. Outside the gates are two stones, one in English, the other in Irish, giving the history of the founding of the school. Outside the Torrent complex which includes the Bardic Theatre as well as the GAA grounds is a small seating area planted with flowers and featuring a small replica of the High Cross.

(5) Presentation of immediate private residential areas including house frontages and gardens:

Well presented houses at Ard crois and Torrent View many with window boxes and with good gardens, mainly in shrubs. Houses and gardens at Lismore Drive are neat and tidy. A garden wall opposite the entrance to the old graveyard has badly peeling paint.

(6) Evidence of Business and Community Involvement:
Shop frontages enhanced with flowers. Overall lack of litter.

(7) Judge's Discretionary Mark:

Adequate on street car parking.
The toilets at garage are clean, with soap and hot water, although the floor in the ladies could do with a mop.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) The amazing floral decorations

(i i) The old graveyard with its historic monuments

(i i i) The High Cross

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) Remove signs and posters from around the High Cross.

(i i)

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Medium Town Category)**

Place Name:- Magherafelt

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- July 11, 2017

Weather conditions:- Warm & Bright

Category Entered: Medium Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGE'S REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) **General Appearance:**

The approach roads to the town gave a good impression, particularly the Monymore Road roundabout. Other feeder roads had good verges and lovely flower displays.

(2) **General Cleanliness and Tidiness:**

There was long-term litter apparent particularly in the vicinity of the Ulsterbus Station. There was quite a bit of fresh litter on the pavements. There was quite a bit of fly pooping, some quite recent, especially a lamp post on Hospital Road. The cemetery car park was clean and tidy with adequate bins and seating.

(3) **Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):**

The family businesses were all in good repair & decoration. The public buildings were all well appointed. There were some waste areas and derelict buildings were unsightly, particularly the old medical centre.

(4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces:**

Meadow Bank Sports arena and the children's play area are a great asset to the local community. The Public Realm works have greatly enhanced the town centre in particular the sculpture in the roundabout.

(5) **Presentation of immediate private residential areas including house frontages and gardens:**

With the wide variety of housing in Magherafelt the residents I seen to have a sense of pride in their properties and keep them well appointed.

(6) **Evidence of Business and Community Involvement:**

The Judges did not see any specific business and community involvement.

(7) **Judge's Discretionary Mark:**

Although the Public Realm works have improved the town there is still room for improvement with regard to street cleanliness in aforementioned areas.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) Open areas and childrens play parks
- (ii) Floral displays at the approach road.
- (iii) Public Realm works

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) Street cleaning
- (ii) Fly-posting & graffiti

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Town Category)**

Place Name:- Maghera

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- July 26, 2017

Weather conditions:- Bright & Sunny

Category Entered: Small Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)
*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES' REMARKS
(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General Appearance:

Many aspects of this town are quite impressive and its general appearance is very good. Approach roads are tidy and adequately signed. Street lighting seems satisfactory. Adequate litter bins, public seating and car parks are provided and comprehensive re-cycling facilities are available in the business park.

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness:

In general terms the town is clean and tidy with few exceptions. Some fly posters were noted in Main Street, lots of fresh litter on the open space outside the Walled Garden and some graffiti was seen on a wall at the car park on St Lurachs Road. Vandalism or dog fouling does not seem to be a problem in the town.

(3) Business Premises: Decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

Although public and commercial properties are in a good state of repair some of the business premises look tired and could benefit from maintenance. The toilets at St Lurachs Road are in a sorry state - long overdue maintenance and cleaning. A telephone kiosk on Main Street is in a sad condition and in urgent need of attention. The only evidence of public transport at the time of visitation was designated bus stops.

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces:

All open spaces are well kept although some are ready for further grass cutting. Children's play parks are clean and well cared for. The Walled Garden takes the lead in so far as management and presentation is concerned. One exception noted was lots of untreated weeds in Meeting House Avenue. While visiting we noticed a council employee busy gathering litter/debris from the streets.

(5) Presentation of immediate private residential areas including house frontages and gardens:

Residential areas are, on the whole, well cared for. Private properties are maintained to a high standard and many have well tended gardens which reflects favourably on the respective occupants. During our visit we noticed some residents cutting the grass verges outside their perimeter fences.

(6) Evidence of Business and Community Involvement:

There is no obvious evidence of business or community involvement in the town maintenance.

(7) Judge's discretionary mark:

This is a well presented provincial town with the Walled Garden the main attraction for visitors.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) The Walled Garden
- (ii) The presentation of children's play parks
- (iii)

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) Improve the toilet facilities
- (ii) Add colour to the town centre in the form of hanging baskets, etc
- (iii) Phone kiosk on Main Street needs maintenance

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Town Category Final Round)**

Place Name:- Maghera

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- August 15, 2017

Weather conditions:- Sunny & Bright

Category Entered: Small Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

LOCATION: MAGHERA

Boundary definition: 30 mph sign.

Date: 23rd August 2017

Weather conditions: Bright, sunny periods.

(1) General appearance.

All the approach roads into Maghera were well maintained with tidy and well cut grass verges and colourful floral planting. Grove terrace was particularly so. Welcome signs were not present everywhere and this was unfortunate. Road and street name signs were of a fairly standard design. There was an adequate number of car parks which were clean with no great amounts of litter although that at Main Street had two abandoned shopping trolleys lying in it. Street lighting was of a standard design but relatively new luminaires in Main Street and Tirkane Road were pleasing. There was adequate public seating present where considered necessary.

(2) General tidiness and cleanliness.

The town was generally free from litter. Weeds were, however, present on the footpaths at locations in the town centre, particularly adjacent to a vacant premises. Graffiti was present on a wall in the Main Street car park and at other locations. Fly posting was present on some lamp posts and in Grove Terrace. Extensive advertising of an inappropriate design was evident on the approach from Tobermore and on a gable wall at Tirkane Road. The toilets in St. Lurachs Road are very dated and malodorous with no hot water or hand drying facilities. The telephone kiosk on Tirkane Road is dirty internally and has fly posting affixed to it. The civic amenity site is small with limited facilities for the collection of recyclables and could be maintained in a tidier manner. There was no evidence of dog fouling, nor was any vandalism seen.

(3) Business premises.

Whilst it is encouraging to see a wide variety of traditional family owned businesses in Maghera, many of the premises are in need of modernisation and a more refreshing appearance. The former Police Station is especially so and, being vacant, has become something of an eyesore. The supermarket on Church Street could be tidier. The former telephone exchange is also untidy and unkempt with unsightly rusting fencing around it. The judges were aware that telephone exchanges in other towns visited were similarly poorly maintained and this is a problem that BT or the relevant body should be addressing. Having said all of that, some commercial buildings were tidy and well cared for. The "Back Door" bar was colourful and well maintained as was the Model Shop and the Flower Centre. Particularly striking was the Old Station House which has been beautifully and tastefully restored and now in use as office accommodation. Other nearby former station buildings and warehouses have been similarly restored and are now in use. All the churches and

their respective grounds are impressive, being tidy and well cared for. The Maghera Garden Centre is a well laid out business and is particularly tidy. Signage and advertising on business premises is varied, not all of it sympathetic. Like many market towns, Maghera has its share of vacant properties. These can quickly become derelict and this is the case in Main Street, Tobermore Road and St. Lurachs Road where litter is rapidly gathering. Public transport facilities consist of a large bus shelter which is clean and perfectly adequate.

(4) Natural environment and open spaces.

The jewel in the crown, as far as Maghera is concerned, is the Old Walled Garden. This is a superb facility and represents great credit to those who planned and maintain it. It has a tremendous display of wild flowers and vegetables. For a place which was effectively a field only three years ago, it is now feature which could be advertised much more widely. It is good to see the Maghera Old Church retained, but it would be preferable to see it and its grounds maintained in a better manner.

(5) Presentation of private residential areas.

Housing developments throughout Maghera are neat and tidy. It is pleasing to see that so many residents take pride in the appearance of their properties and keep them neat and well cared for. Hawthorn Road is a new development and falls into this category as does Cloneen Manor and that on Tirkane Road. Tullykeeran Gardens and Crawfordsburn are also housing areas where the residents can feel proud of their environment.

(6) Evidence of business and community involvement.

It is difficult to discern any great evidence of business involvement in the appearance of Maghera. As far as the community is concerned, it was noted that the Busy Bees children's playgroup is a community run facility.

(7) Aspects deserving special commendation.

- The Walled Garden – an exceptional facility.
- The approaches to the town with well-tended verges and floral displays.

(8) Aspects needing improvement.

- Vacant business premises although it is recognised that this is possibly a reflection on the current economic climate.
- General untidiness in a number of areas.

Judges' comments:

Maghera is a market town with tidy residential areas and a most impressive facility in the Walled Garden. It would be welcome if the town centre and some of its municipal facilities could be upgraded.

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2017 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Village Category)**

Place Name:- Tobermore

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 17/07/2017

Weather conditions:- Warm & Sunny

Category Entered: Small Village

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)
*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General appearance:

Plains basic approach to name plates with ground around not recently tended to no floral displays except on Mayhem Rd. which was being tended while I was there. Nice clean road approach on Tolamore Rd A29 but not a great deal of color. Good road signs but some a little obscured by foliage. No street name signs in main village st./area but angle in street parking to small car park & picnic area at some business premises. Little most public seating just painted in main st. and looking well. Basic DOE street lighting to good re-cycling provision on Dunrobin Rd.

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness:

A little long term & fresh litter here & there e.g. picnic area to park on Tolamore Rd to road to let block & Dunrobin Rd Junction. No evidence of vandalism or graffiti although some flyposting on lamp posts on Mayhem & Dunrobin Rds. Some persistent boarding advertising outside Spar at garage on Mayhem Rd. No dog fouling although there are no dog mess bins.

(3) Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

Mostly neat & tidy business premises, some with floral displays. Vacant rough & old filling station on right in the main street going towards Dunrobin Rd to unsightly waste ground, overgrown & unkempt with old motor & long trailer @ junction of Dunrobin Rd to Wood Rd (no improvement seen from last year). Efforts have been made though in the areas of main st to make unused areas with attractive painted hoardings. Well maintained bus shelters.

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces

Park & picnic area on Tolamore Road needs some maintenance - untended beds & paths to a little long term & fresh litter evidenced. A good open space though with outdoor gym equipment, tennis courts & bowling area. Tolamore Utd football pitch which is enclosed & well maintained. Grass in park recently cut. Whilst there are some lovely formal floral displays (e.g. main st.) there is no evidence of conservation activities except for wild margins to vacant area in centre of Park.

(5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas including house frontages and gardens:

Private residential areas are well kept with some lovely frontages e.g. Calmore Rd to Longhall area. Fort Hill & beautiful row of terraced houses with floral displays & color just past junction of Dunrobin Rd on the main St.

(6) Evidence of Business and Community Involvement

Beautiful floral displays in the centre of the main at sponsored by Tolvermore Concrete Products. Effort made by residents with lovely floral displays to recently painted little bins & public benches in the main at. The park area & approach roads have slipped though from last year but I couldn't see any evidence of community notices or events.

(7) Judge's discretionary mark and comments

The toilet block in the centre of the village needs attention & cleaning the approach road & park area have slipped a bit from last year. There was work being done on the Maghera Rd. beds while I was there & little bins & public seating had just been painted in the main at. Recycling provision has been made since last year but although there are some lovely floral displays other beds & display areas need tending & there's no obvious conservation activity.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) Recycling provision (recommendation from last year)
- (ii) The beautiful floral displays sponsored by Tolvermore Concrete
- (iii) Good Public seating.

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) Refreshment of cleaning of toilet block to outside area.
- (ii) Address waste ground & neglected fill station (Draperstown Rd to the main at.)
- (iii) Promote conservation area(s)