

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONEGAL**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	29
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	16
Residential Areas	30	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	206

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your aspirations for Clonegal as expressed in your work programme are extremely laudable. You have a clear grasp of the unique historical and ecological heritage of the locality and have considered this in relation to your plans for the town. The work programme also expresses a commendable spirit of participation and involvement for the community as a whole. Many thanks for your precise work plan and simple map, both of which were very useful on Adjudication Day.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have also expressed, in your work programme, a very clear knowledge of the wildlife that is unique and special to your immediate surroundings. Your aspirations to keep these areas as natural as possible are to be commended, particularly in relation to the riverside area. Perhaps the local schoolchildren could participate in wildlife projects in their environs, in order to give them an enthusiasm for the wealth of ecological delights of their immediate environment.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was very high with a wealth of incidental open spaces. The grotto is a simple yet effective "event" along the wall, flanked as it is by conifers and geraniums either side. However, some weeds were noted to the raised bed. The stone wall was well maintained with its gravel planted bed atop. The timber seating was fresh, and the rockery looked well. The Village Green was well maintained with its green benches and overhanging conifers. The old graveyard was simply presented. Perhaps the low concrete fence to the green area containing the Wicklow Way could be removed. This must be a pleasant space to sit and watch the world go by! The Watch House area would appear to be much improved. However, the yard area adjacent to the bridge looked unfortunate, with its array of building materials and paving slabs outside.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard in this category was a little inconsistent. The school was reasonably well presented, although it should be freshened up before next year's competition. Some weeding is necessary to the boundary wall. The Catholic Church grounds and planting looked well, although the building itself could have been fresher on the day. There is an ideal opportunity to create a fine urban space in this general area. The charming Methodist Church had a broken window and weeds to the gable coping. The laburnum tree and unusually patterned stone wall to the old graveyard opposite was admired. Although the new graveyard had been freshly painted, the tarmacaded area to the front looked quite bare and desolate, despite the green planted tubs. It was quite pot-holed and weedy and rather overgrown towards the entrance. The area opposite was also overgrown but sported an abundance of wild flowers including bluebells. The wrought iron gates to the Castle could have been fresher. The stone building terminating the axis of Main Street adjacent to the bridge looked quite charming.

LITTER CONTROL

The town of Clonegal was virtually litter free on Adjudication Day. Two minor problem areas were behind the gate to the Methodist Church where some litter was noted, and Valley View estate where a couple papers were spotted.

TIDINESS

The only difficulties in this category (apart from areas already noted in this document) were the untidy yard area to the Watch House area, and the weeds to the day work joints in the concrete to the car park area opposite the Catholic Church.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was very good, as most of the houses and gardens of Clonegal were presented to a high standard. Some of the boundary walls of the Valley View estate needed attention, although most were quite fresh. The green banked open space with trees and shrubs was beautifully maintained. The charming ivy-clad stone gate lodge to the Castle was admired as was the cottage opposite. The delightful gardens on the Bunclody road deserve an especial mention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was a little inconsistent. Some of both the approach roads and the streets of the town itself were quite potholed, including the Carlow road, and the avenue to the Castle. The wild purple vetch to the former was admired, however. The pot-holed tarmacadamed pavement by the graveyard had been patched with gravel. Road signage was well maintained, the delightfully simple square traditional "Clonegal" signs being particularly admired. The construction of a stone wall was in progress on the Bunclody Lower approach road. However, the verges could have been more neatly presented. The planting to the top of a low stone wall on this road looked well. The area in the vicinity of the Methodist Church on the Tullow approach was quite overgrown. The delightful wild flowers were admired, however. The "Children Crossing" sign on this road was slightly obscured by cow parsley.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town of Clonegal is one of great charm and character. It is steeped in history and has a unique legacy of architectural, historical and ecological heritage. The view down from the top of Main Street with the backdrop of the mountains and the pine forest, is truly magnificent.