

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CLONMORE**  
County : **CARLOW**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>199</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Tidy Towns Committee would appear to have a clear objective in mind in terms of what they would like to achieve for the village. However, as you seem all too aware you have your work cut out for you in terms of co-operation by some residents in the community and Carlow County Council. The first issue could be addressed by, perhaps, organising a garden competition, while the County Council should be put under pressure regarding both road maintenance and, particularly, signage. The village has a fine heritage of antiquity and historic buildings, which you must be proud of, and every effort should be made to instil into the whole community a sense of civic respect for this place.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Due to its size the village has the benefit of the landscape blending effortlessly with the heart of the village as epitomised by the wonderful mature horse chestnut tree overhanging the road by the Church of Ireland. Many wild flowers and indigenous ferns abound in the hedgerows and these should be encouraged to flourish, without giving the roadsides a disordered, neglected appearance. Establish contact with local environmental groups to get expert advice on the natural habitats and species of animal, bird, fish and wild flowers within your catchment area.

### LANDSCAPING

Some marvellous efforts had been made in this area achieving an attractive natural looking result. The raised granite bed near the Catholic Church is due especial praise. The main green had an ordered appearance, but looked a little bit bare. St. Mogues Well looked attractive with its well-maintained beds of yellow and red gorse.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the commercial and public buildings in the village were presented to a high standard. The community centre had some staining to its gable walls and could be freshened-up before next year. The stone wall to the front was well maintained apart from some thistles and other weeds. The former post office is a building of great character and its closure is to be regretted. The cream grilles to the windows of the Church of Ireland were quite rusty and should be painted before next years Competition. The grounds were well maintained although some weeding is necessary to the concrete paths between the graves. The pub looked very cheerful in its terracotta colour and petrol blue quoins. The modern Catholic church looked very fresh, although the forecourt needs some thought in relation to landscaping and the ramp needed weeding. Generally, a good effort all round.

### LITTER CONTROL

The level of litter control was generally good, but some papers were visible in the stream, on the pavement alongside the bridge, along by graveyard opposite the church, and a single forlorn plastic bottle was floating in the well.

### TIDINESS

The main problems in this area would appear to be weed-control and individual members of the community causing a level of untidiness to their own premises. In the case of the former, weeds were apparent to the kerb on the Hacketstown Road (and indeed, to kerbs generally) and to the backyard of the Community Centre. Weeds were also a problem to the base of the graveyard wall on the Shillelagh Road - perhaps the obviously old plaster to the wall could be removed to reveal the stone beneath? The aluminium phone box needed a wash. The pile of gravel and stones by the church should be removed when building work is complete.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There was a certain inconsistency in this category, as some residents show a great deal of pride in their surroundings, while others seem to be quite unconcerned. Attention should be paid to outbuildings (particularly the traditional red metal roofs) boundary walls, fences and to abandoned cars and machinery that tend to give bad impression. Some residents have extended their duties to the roadways outside their gardens - of particular note were the attractive house with the cheerful red trim and gutters beside the Community Centre with its floral display tumbling over the boundary wall and those with raised granite beds to the roadsides. Piles of building materials should be removed from the roadsides once work is completed, as they give the village an untidy appearance.

## ROADS, STREETS & BACK AREAS

Signage seemed to let the village down in this category, as the town name plates on both the Tullow Road and Hacketstown Road were damaged and the directional signs within the village itself were rusty and should be replaced before next year. Weeds were also a problem on kerbsides and at the bases of boundary walls. Storage of abandoned cars and machinery should be discouraged, as it looks unsightly.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clonmore is a village of great charm and character- steeped in history with its marvellous Church of Ireland and its two graveyards(in particular that with the magnificent examples of Early Christian graves), the Bullawn Stone, St. Mogue's Well and the 13th. Century ivy clad de Lacey Castle. As already noted, effort will have to be made to encourage the participation of the whole community to make this town appear to its best advantage in next years Competition. Congratulations to all concerned and keep up the good work. This village is worth it!