

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONLARA**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	20
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	161

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The submitted application form did not indicate the level of interaction between the committee and other sections of the community. Still there was sufficient evidence that the people of the village have a sense of pride in the place, but it seems as if this is very much on an individual basis. It is good to see that the committee intend to draw up a development plan which will help revitalise the village. I hope that the preparation of this plan will involve representatives of other organisations in the decision making process. Set a deadline to have this ready for next year's competition.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are many areas in Clonlara that are suitable for the development of a nature type project or amenity. The village possesses a richness in trees and hedgerows that are ideal wildlife habitats and these should be exploited to the full in future years. The canal, bridge and its surrounds could be an ideal starting point where there are a combination of trees and varied hedgerows. Involve the schools and aim to have a proposal ready for next years competition. Seek out the advice of your local rural environment specialist.

LANDSCAPING

There was a nice selection of trees and shrubs in the main body of the village and some individual business premises and private residences are to be commended for their contribution by way of pleasant window box displays. The immediate frontage at the school is an example of what is good in terms of shrub bed design, a nice mix of medium sized shrubs and both annual and perennial flowers. I still feel that much more can be achieved under this heading and again urge the committee to give this section priority treatment in any work plan that may be put in place.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The greater majority of individual business premises are very well maintained and in this respect both public houses are to be commended for looking extremely well. The new housing development being undertaken at the moment will enhance that particular back area and help to give it a new image. Again as was the case last year the Homestead Premises on the outskirts could do with a planting scheme which will give the place more vibrancy. The School and its surrounds are a credit to those responsible for maintaining it. The RC Church was also well presented as was its grounds. The old C of I Church and the whole area at that junction is very attractive with prudent planting.

LITTER CONTROL

There was too much litter in and around the core of the village on adjudication day, in direct contrast to last year when its condition was much better. I would suggest that a few more bins be deployed around the village and the immediate surrounds. While the fact that the adjudication took place on a Sunday when there may have been a large volume of traffic through the village one has to report on what was observed.

TIDINESS

It might seem somewhat of a contradiction as to what was reported in the last section, but in fact the village was quite tidy, bins were clean, signs were visible in most cases and were also clean, and finally weed control was acceptable. There were only a few untidy back areas. There was evidence of good work being done under this section.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential areas were in general kept in good condition although the Derryinna Estate could be better. Positive encouragement should be given to all residents of this estate who, with very little effort, could bring the place up to standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads need some attending to, either because of grass needing to be cut back slightly or because of what could be termed "unsightlies". For instance the entrance to the village from the Killaloe Rd was somewhat messy because of ongoing work on the tailrace bridge. Work has to be done but sites like this one should be controlled better especially when work has stopped for the day or the weekend.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

While Clonlara is a nice pleasant village, it certainly has not reached its peak in the competition. There are a good number of positive things happening within the village. Unfortunately there are also a number of areas to be addressed. The proposed plan should be in place for next year's competition. Seek the advice, if it hasn't been done already, of your local environmental expert especially in relation to input on the Wildlife sector. Keep up the effort.