

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CLONASLEE**  
County : **LAOIS**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	30
The Built Environment	40	29
Litter Control	40	27
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>217</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The support from the community, as mentioned in your reply to the questionnaire, is most encouraging, as is the co-operative effort with local and regional bodies. Improvements as listed were impressive, but even more impressive when seen. Your long-term plans will be looked forward to. This is a most satisfactory entry and should give Clonaslee a higher place than heretofore in the country list when the marks are allocated.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The nearby forests, and the well-signposted forest and mountain walks, as well as the river walk which is being developed, place Clonaslee ahead of most other centres in this category.

### LANDSCAPING

Increased planting throughout the village was very favourably noted, especially the shrubberies and trees - there can never be enough tree planting anywhere! Landscaping and planting at the Community Centre is welcomed, but the low stone wall may not survive long against car-parking, and perhaps the shrubs will survive in this location better than some of the herbaceous plants recently put down - but this remains to be seen and the intention is good.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church of Ireland is the architectural centrepiece of the townscape and has been remarkably well improved. The Catholic Church is also well maintained, as is the school. Fallon's has been entered in the national shopfront competition because the whole building - not just the shopfront - has been painted, there is strong signwriting, attractive floral displays and no mass-produced signs. There are still some obtrusive mass-produced/plastic signs elsewhere. Good painting, signwriting and floral decorations, were seen on several business premises.

### LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter here and there in the main street and in one of the housing estates on adjudication day, but not a conspicuous amount.

### TIDINESS

Virtual absence of litter makes a huge positive contribution under this heading. There was some kerbside weed, noted below. Nettles and a poor fence outside the Health Centre were surprising in comparison with the tidiness elsewhere. Where weeds are poisoned, the remains should be removed, as dead weeds can look as unsightly as growing ones.

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most older street houses were attractively maintained, many with floral decorations. Private houses, especially on the Birr road and cul-de-sac off it, had excellent gardens. The two estates at the east end were well kept, though there was some kerbside weed in the one nearest the town and some boundary walls needed freshening up with paint.

### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are generally good. The approach road from Birr is particularly trim in its verges, planting and grassed spaces. The new paving in the Square is exceptionally impressive; beware of over-urbanisation in any future developments of this kind, because it is the village qualities which are so

attractive. The parking islands and street marking are an admirable innovation. Good to see two off-street car-parks elsewhere. New improved street lighting, seating and bins add considerably to the overall effect. A new stone wall and improvements to existing walls, were very favourably noted.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village of great charm with an air of prosperity and imaginative enterprise.

#### SECOND ADJUDICATION (14/08/96)

The overall impression of Clonaslee was very favourable - the main feature being the church at the terminal point in the main street, - the spotlights will make a significant contribution visually. The main street has received substantial treatment with tree plantings, designated car parking areas, street furniture, etc. However, when hard landscaping is being considered, the use of local materials is often overlooked; consideration should be given to this for future purposes. Overall, the level of order and tidiness was very high. Woods are an excellent amenity and it is recommended that a stronger link be developed between wood, river and village.