

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONES**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	14
Litter Control	40	14
Tidiness	20	6
Residential Areas	30	12
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	16
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	135

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your adjudicator having judged Clones on previous occasions and having read in detail your very fine submission was looking forward to seeing further improvement this year. Unfortunately, my visit coincided with the filming of *The Butcher Boy*, and consequently the many problems of dereliction etc. were totally obvious in the absence of your usual magnificent landscape display. Nonetheless, I except that you are contemplating very seriously improving your town centre and redressing the imbalance brought about by woes of previous years. For this you are to be congratulated and keep up the good work. It might be best if you regarded 1996 as a watershed and do not place too much emphasis on what is necessarily a stark judgement.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This new category offers particular opportunity to Clones. It was interesting to note your border walks and cycling routes. And for this you are to be congratulated, these will offer you an opportunity to develop a wildlife element within them. Alternatively, the canal stores as a destination might be made accessible on the route of the old canal. It is important here to get the advice of your local wildlife enthusiasts and to proceed in a natural and eco fashion in any development that you undertake.

LANDSCAPING

As already remarked the absence of your usual magnificent display in the Diamond was regretted, nonetheless the first class work on McGuigan Road and on the many other planted areas, notably in the estates and at some of the junctions was noted. McGuigan Park is coming along very well and the good foundations laid down over the past three or four years will pay off handsomely.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This was a contentious area. All of your excellent paint work was noted and for this you are to be congratulated. However, as you can appreciate it only shows up the need for so much more work to be done and when that was not disguised with hanging baskets and floral displays it was all too obvious. The halting site on Jubilee Road has been maintained very well this year and both residents and caretaker are to be congratulated on this. Also noted was the improvement to the canal stores and the neat appearance of the children's play area on Cara Street.

LITTER CONTROL

This, frankly was bad, even in the estates. Litter was spilt on the site of old bus office in the Diamond and generally there was a light layer throughout the town and suburbs.

TIDINESS

Similarly, tidiness was absent in many of the areas notwithstanding the filming in the main streets. Side streets and estates all required a far more tidy approach. It was noted however that the play area and Cara Street were cleaner than before and the G.A.A. car park are being kept very well.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The estate properties in O'Neill Park, Cara Heights and Carn Heights and Carn View were noted for their private gardens and neat appearances as were the many private houses on the approach roads. It is now important that the residents in the smaller back streets improve their properties with baskets or window boxes.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were all in very good condition and the Urban District Council together with the Fas workers are to be congratulated for this. On the day of adjudication considerable further improvement was taking place on the Newtownbutler Road. Back streets however are a problem as you can appreciate, Jubilee Roads infill sites really need to be addressed although congratulations on the good paint work on the derelict, corrugated sheds that has been undertaken here. The McCurtain Street road and pathways were particularly bad and these too would need to be addressed, keep the pressure up on your local authority.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This was a watershed year and you should not be disappointed in your overall adjudication. However you too will have seen what Clones was like without the flowers and the prettification and it is this core issue that you need address in order to do better in the years to come. Keep up the good work and do not be disappointed. Best of luck for '97, and we look forward to seeing the donkey carts back!