

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONAKENNY**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13
Landscaping	40	20
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	156

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Clonakenny is a typical farming village very manageable and should with the proper approach make progress in the competition in the years ahead. The committee should prior to next years competition formulate a 3 year work programme which would have achievable objectives and a timescale within which they will be done. Invite input from all sections of the community and also forge stronger links with the Local Authority and other agencies such as FAS. The local community has been very supportive so far and will be even more so if a planned approach to the development of the village is taken. As stated in last years report the Tidy Towns effort works only when the local community is fully supportive of the Committee.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are many wildlife habitats in and around every village or town -habitats such as woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows and green areas, some have a better advantage than others. Clonakenny is no different than others, for instance the river and bridge area could be a starting point for a proposed nature project. Get the local school involved, give them the incentive by way of a competition, in this respect seek advice from a local environmental expert.

LANDSCAPING

The main focal point in the village is the bridge over the River Nore, while there has been good efforts made to establish planting patterns around it, I feel that the bridge is not complimented enough. As part of any proposed work programme I think the committee should look at the bridge as the main feature of the village and re focus any present plans to ensure that it gets priority attention.

This will include examining the landscaping element and possibly getting advice from Tipperary County Council Horticultural Section to see how this can be best done. The stonewalls which have been built and are in the process of being built or faced are effective and will make the village very attractive when completed, so it is important that any further landscaping will have a complimentary effect. The area at the back of the housing estate was in the process of being cleaned and planted on adjudication day and no doubt it will be a worthwhile facility especially for the residents when completed. Individual householders had nice gardens with very colourful floral combinations.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

St Brigids Church, its grounds and the adjoining graveyard were in very good condition again credit to those responsible for their upkeep. The Post Office was also well presented, The Norebrook Lounge and adjoining shop were adequate - the carpark was very untidy with weed growth and cracked surface, this premises could do with an overall uplift. There were a number of examples of well presented private residences most notably a newly built house and a really well kept farmhouse exactly opposite. The newly constructed stonewalls will make a big difference to the look of the village when all are completed, it is good to see the parish pump getting priority treatment. The old bike shed is in need of refurbishment.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter on adjudication day. However, the village is a little spread out and could do with more bins. It is noted that Tipperary NR County Council are to provide a number of bins and a bottle bank.

TIDINESS

The village, even allowing for the good efforts of some residents, looked a little untidy on the day. One can appreciate that in a farming village there is bound to be activity that leads to a certain amount of

untidiness but the level in this instance was unacceptable. The Norebrook Car Park is messy with poor weed control and cracked surface, the farmyard on the Roscrea Road where the stonewall is being built has a dilapidated Hymac in its yard. A few more premises need to clean up their back areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estate on the way to Templemore was not at its best. Some people go to great effort and great expense to have nice homesteads - unfortunately others do not have the same civic spirit. Back areas in some cases were very messy, it is a pity that all residents cannot have a unified approach to presenting the good side of their estate.

The work being done in and around the green area might give encouragement to the residents to take a positive approach next year.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As was the case last year the village is at a disadvantage when the approach roads are not up to the accepted standard. The grass margins were too overgrown on roads leading to the village, this created a very basic problem as the roads are quite narrow. I am aware that there are positive moves being made by the committee to create linkages with approach roads and the core of the village by means of stonewalls and hedgerows. Re-examine your plans to fit in with the suggested 3 year work programme.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clonakenny as stated in the first section is a small manageable village, which if properly directed should improve and do reasonably well in the competition. In this its second year it has made some progress but much more concerted effort is needed to progress. The idea of putting together a 3 year plan is one which Clonakenny would benefit from immensely. At present, despite the best efforts of the committee, there seems to be a lack of direction. The committee will have to strengthen links with the County Council and try to get involved in a village renewal programme .