

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONEGAL**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	32
The Built Environment	40	31	28
Landscaping	40	32	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	31	28
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	20
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	224	206

Clonegal, Co. Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for submitting your plan outlining work to be done up to and including 1998. The maps attached were very detailed and clear which helped very much with the adjudication. Your Plan set out clearly your objectives for each year covered. The photographs of the Centre Bed were beautifully produced and presented. Great work is being done by this Committee of 15 and progress is being made each year in a planned and co-ordinated way. It is good to see that you receive excellent co-operation from the Local Authorities, Coillte, FAS and the community at large. Do also liaise with your local tourism Officer who will walk the ground with you and give helpful advice to you.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is noted that you are still having difficulties with the Methodist Church - hopefully, sooner rather than later it will receive attention. The cemetery was well presented and the troughs of flowers are looking very well. There is still evidence of plastic signage on commercial properties and perhaps they might be encouraged to replace them. The Church and Community Hall were presented to a high standard. The School was listed on the plan to be painted this year as was the small gate on the bridge and the wall bordering High Street is to be replaced. We would suggest that you block up the window of the Garage on riverside with wooden shutters to prevent litter, bottles, etc being dumped there. Hopefully the owners of Connelleys will paint the property. Have noted your comments regarding the cement yard and understand your explanation.

LANDSCAPING

Again this year the standard under this category is very good. The Centre Bed looks wonderful and has a very interesting mix of shrubs and plants. It was great to see the village name in both Irish and English on the stone. The plants at the telephone booth, Grotto, School, rockery and Church car park looked very well. The area across from the cemetery entrance had some lovely flowering. One can see a lot of work and thought has been put into this aspect. Well done ! Grass area opposite Dunnes needs cutting.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It was great to see that the Carlow County Council have cleared the River for you - they are to be commended. You have some delightful trees and the small Wood on the riverbank is maturing nicely. The ducks were nesting by the riverbank and it was noted that an information sign is to be erected. You continue to keep the area looking natural. Perhaps you might be able to identify the species of fish. If there is any difficulty, talk to a local person who has some expertise in this area.

LITTER CONTROL

The control of litter continues to be well managed throughout. Some pieces were found on the bank area at the river and further along towards the bridge. The two bins in Valley View would have to be replaced for 1998.

TIDINESS

Attention is necessary for kerbs as weeds to be removed. Cut grass around trees and signs and attend to the weeds on the gravel areas. Paint the picnic table which has marks on it.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this area is being maintained. As mentioned in last years report the boundary walls of some houses in Valley View estate need painting. The open green space is tidy and neat. St Brigids terrace had some weeds at the kerbs. A nice shrub area was well maintained on Parkbridge Road. A lovely wooden sign was noted with a nice shrub area. Other residences looked well but some would need to be freshened up.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road hedges were tidy. A lot of work has been done and that includes the Bunclody road lower - (kerbing to be done); approach road to St. Brigids Terrace improved; the area inside wire perhaps could be planted with wildflowers. Footpath from Church to village needs attention. Do continue to work on this aspect. The signage was being maintained but one or two need repairs or replacement.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clonegal has great potential and one can see the effort put in over the last four years by the Committee. Do continue to keep up the great work. Your work continues to enhance the village and no doubt it is being appreciated by the Community.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/97)

This village is charming, both during the day and in the evening, with a very strong sense that the countryside runs right through the residential areas. This is quite a different setting than most other towns in the region and should be respected in the light of future works. Seeing the steam roller tamping the gravel at the Church of Ireland only reinforced the special qualities of this village and its connections to the surrounding landscape. The main street would seem to have had more trees at an earlier time and consideration should be given to establishing an alley of chestnuts along the street. This would mean that the ends of the street would be better connected. The use of the dark green paint to integrate various elements along the street (such as gates) is providing a consistency and theme which ties together various items. The high level of maintenance demonstrates a strong community effort from the distant properties at the edge of the town to the centre of the main street. The flower displays are

excellent and require perhaps too much attention for the short seasonal effect and may need more permanent plantings. The concrete kerbs take away from the splendour of the plantings and some other method should be investigated to tie in with more traditional finishes associated with the village. Corner plantings are not large enough to offset the wear and tear at such locations. There are too many barrels and such holders of floral arrangement would seem to be only for summer display and do not contribute to the winter environment, perhaps simpler flower beds would hold more permanent sense of display (such as seen along the main street). Tidiness is very good. The large concrete pavement at the top of the village does not contribute to the efforts made by the Committee in improving this area (even though the hanging baskets offset the harshness) and would seem to indicate that the space requires another form of treatment. It might be possible to get some funding from the urban renewal scheme to tackle this area.