

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLANE**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	25	23
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	206	200

Clane, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form and map which were very helpful. Thank you also for submitting your Tidy Towns plan - good luck in seeing the various projects through to fruition. Try, perhaps, to expand on the plan, and to include other headings in the competition. The linkage of heritage with the present is a nice feature, i.e. memorial park. Traffic congestion was particularly bad on day of adjudication - an Environmental Improvement Plan dealing with amenities, and roads would be of great benefit. It is obvious that you have a very strong sub-committee locally, it would be nice if this could be built on by working with the County Council and other relevant bodies.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

A mixed result was noted in the presentation of buildings this year. The pharmacy on the Prosperous road was well presented as were the schools. Scoil Mhuire deserves a special mention for an excellent presentation of flowers at its entrance. The grounds of Clane General Hospital were well presented and a nice presentation was noted at the entrance to Conneff Park (GAA). Also well presented were the Catholic Church and Flanagan's Surgery. Try to paint St. Brigid's National School, Clane Tennis Club and Scoil Naomh Senell. The Laurel B&B was very well presented. The Woods was newly painted and the car park of Jas Manzor was well presented. Try to replace the corrugated gate at the Clane Hire and Sales. Tom Gough's was well presented and McKenna's is much improved on last year. Try to improve the signage at Bambury's and Amerigo. The work done on the old church is to be commended; well done. Overall, the Main Street being quite wide could be very nicely presented through more attention to detail and more thought. e.g. additional treeplanting, proper parking layout, etc..

LANDSCAPING

The appearance, maintenance and presentation of the public spaces are a vital aspect of civic design quality. Poor presentation of public areas can take away from high standards achieved by individual properties. The presentation of the park as one enters the town on the left hand side was very good this year, with nice visual effects of the stream. Good luck in your efforts to develop the second riverside park. The entrance to the cemetery was well landscaped, with litter bins noted also. Grassed areas were generally well maintained throughout Clane, apart from the approach roads. The green areas near Con Quirke's were also very well presented. A new project was also noted being developed on one green.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Conserving nature is a new venture for many towns and can appear daunting at first. The adjudicators recognise that

environmental programmes can take time to get up and running and even longer to assess their success. This section of the report requires an involvement of all groups, including schools in the village. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Is there a local wildlife expert, or a member of the community with experience in this area, that your committee can draw on? In preparing an environmental programme for the town, there should be a year-round participation in environmental protection and promotion involving all members of the community and providing access for all. The next step is to identify what habitats are in your area - are there woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, or other habitats such as urban spaces, cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of future importance, e.g. school grounds and gardens, derelict sites etc. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Clane would include identification of the flora and fauna in the area, preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan, and other possibilities could include conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. These must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. In this regard, the adjudicators wish Clane well in the development of their riverside park and picnic area. Consider adding additional native trees and developing a wildflower meadow.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control throughout Clane was quite good this year. However, increased vigilance is needed as sprinklings of litter were noted outside Scoil Mhuire, outside the grounds of the boys National School and at the entrance to the Tennis Club where it was particularly bad. Try to work on this area for next year.

TIDINESS

The adjudicators would like to commend the voluntary efforts that have taken place in relation to tidiness. Your comments in relation to support from the Council are noted. Try to replace the glass at the telephone kiosk and also consider the undergrounding of wires. There is a need for more tree planting, particularly along the Main Street, which could create a very nice visual appearance in years to come. Try to paint signs at the junction by the woods. Some illegal sign posting was also noted on the poles; try to maintain vigilance in this. Another area that takes from the overall appearance of tidiness is illegal parking on footpaths, try to come up with measures to dissuade this.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Good efforts were noted on the approach from Naas. Park View

was well presented, as was Abbey Court. Well done to those involved. Hill View was also generally well presented but there is a need to watch the weeds along the kerbs. The Elms was a nice presentation, as was Lough Bollard. At St. Brigid's Terrace weeds were noted, while College Grove and Oatfield Park had very good presentations. Some planting was noted at the entrance to Otomy Drive, and Meadow Court was very neat and tidy. Overall, a very good presentation under this category. Well done to the efforts of those involved.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Try to sweep gravel on the Naas approach as this takes from the overall tidy appearance. The area to the right hand side by the telephone exchange could be improved also. Approaching from Prosperous, grass verges needed to be cut back at the time of adjudication and resurfacing is needed around Hazel Hall. It was better further in, with a new development/stone wall, Butterstream Lawn, helping to improve the appearance. Further in was much neater and tidier; well done. Traffic calming measures or improved parking layout is needed along the Main Street as parking was a bit ad-hoc and erratic in terms of cars parked on footpaths etc. This does nothing to improve accessibility for the disabled or the elderly. Approaching from Straffan, the grass verges had been cut back; try to remove the gravel from here also. At Bergin's Garden Centre there is also a need for better signage. Try to incorporate Irish into the "Welcome to Clane" sign. Approaching from Kilcock, improvements are needed. For example, grass verges on both sides side were not cut. Overall, the adjudicators recognise that there is a high volume of traffic passing through Clane. However, approaches should be made to the County Council in relation to putting in traffic calming measures and improving parking on the Main Street.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The presence of new residential developments and increased traffic congestion impacts negatively on the old village charm of Clane, which is a shame. However, the influx of new residents should be harnessed to help the committee develop projects in its three year plan. You will need the support of the County Council in order to overcome some of the larger problems. You have a lovely town and you have shown that you have excellent voluntary support; try to continue this. The adjudicators look forward to the completion of projects under your three year plan. Good luck for 1998.