

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	16	14
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	15	14
Tidiness	20	7	6
Residential Areas	30	13	12
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	16
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	146	135

Clones, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Congratulations to Clones Chamber of Commerce on the many new initiatives now in place not least the new 5 year town plan. It appears that you have established a good working relationship with the public and private sectors and hopefully your discussions with the funding agencies will be productive. While some improvements were noted by the adjudicator there is still a lot of work to be done and your decision to seek professional advice in this regard is commendable. Thank you for the completed entry form and very informative support documentation. This adjudicator will expect a significant improvement in the presentation of Clones in 1998.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The redevelopment of the Diamond is excellent and the response from many of the commercial interests in that area of Clones is most encouraging. Individual property owners in other parts of the town have also responded positively with many new shop fronts in place or awaiting completion. Churches, Schools, Public Buildings were all presented well. However, the open spaces adjacent to the GAA Park and Clones Tractors need attention. The Old Cinema is also a problem and requires a facelift. Congratulations on the well presented Canal Visitor Centre and to the students of Larcy College for the tastefully presented colourful murals on the handball alley. The poor presentation of many buildings in the area of Jubilee Road is still a problem under this heading. Premises in need of painting, unsightly open spaces and a poorly presented access to the halting site and Enterprise Centre are all losing you marks. A co-ordinated approach to the painting of buildings is now required to make real impact on the streetscapes. The adjudicator looks forward to the completion of the new shopping centre on the Monaghan Road and the flagship projects proposed for Barry McGuigan Park and Car park in Fermanagh Street.

LANDSCAPING

The Diamond was nicely presented and most colourful with the many attractive floral exhibits blending in nicely with the streetscapes. Your landscaping programme designed by Jenny Blackburn and supported by your local garden centre is very professional. The choice of flowers, shrubs etc for planting is excellent and will have year round effect. The adjudicator was pleased to note that O'Neill Park Estate features strongly in this programme. Obviously this will require a lot of maintenance and is ideal for a FAS scheme or the local authority might give consideration to appointing a town gardener. Landscaping will have a major role to play in the regeneration of Clones. Keep up the good work, you are making steady progress.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As a Tidy Towns promoter you have an important role to play in protecting, enhancing and increasing the wildlife value of Clones and its environs. The adjudicator was pleased to note that you have initiated discussions with your local experts and you are commended for this. Please involve local schools in assisting with suitable projects proposed under this heading i.e. identify wildlife habitats, local flora and fauna, field trips etc.

LITTER CONTROL

An improved performance this year is rewarded by an increase in marks. However, don't get complacent as there is still a lot of work to be done before Clones can be considered a litter free town. Serious litter and graffiti problems were noted by the adjudicator on the approach road to the GAA Park and in O'Neill Park Estate. Give consideration to an anti litter awareness programme for next year working closely with your new street committees.

TIDINESS

Clones is not the tidiest of towns and last year's observations still apply. Some improvements have taken place and the full support of all sections of the community will be necessary to expedite further progress.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As already mentioned, O'Neill Park Estate was disappointing. However, it was good to see some planting being carried out at the entrance to the estate. Other estates were presented reasonably well and the old peoples homes on the Rosslea Road were impeccable. Some very attractively presented private houses were noted on the outskirts of town and the new style council houses look great. It is important for environmental presentation that all new housing projects are properly landscaped and finished as soon as work has been completed and before builders move out. As part of your overall programme for 1998 give some thought to organising a tidy estates competition with awards for local authority and private housing.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads have improved in presentation and looked well on adjudication day. However, side streets and back areas are major problems in Clones. Forecourt areas are poorly presented and need to be tidied up. All streets should have nameplates and it is suggested they be bilingual. Replace the untidy "Welcome to Clones" sign (blue) on the Monaghan Road. The flower cart was an attractive feature of this road. Street furniture was presented to satisfaction. However, an improvement in the standard of directional signposting is recommended. On a positive note your new development plan will tackle many of the problems under this heading and this is something to look forward to.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You now have an ambitious work programme in place and this will

greatly enhance the built environment of Clones when projects have been completed. Consistency in performance and attention to detail will be required during the period of the programme. This should not be a problem as you would appear to have established a good working relationship with your local authorities and community representatives. Your determination and professional approach should inspire others to get involved. Good luck with your applications for funding. The rejuvenation of Clones is well in progress. Best wishes for an improved performance in 1998.