

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONEGAL**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	21
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	18	17
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	232	224

Clonegal, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Clonegal is welcome the 1998 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for sending such clear and informative maps, report and development plan. These documents were most helpful and facilitated the adjudication. It was a great pleasure to visit your village which is in a beautiful setting and it is clear that you are making the most of the natural habitats and amenity development. The co-operation and involvement of the community which is so evident is commendable. Continue this good work and you will continue to make steady progress towards being one of the top entries in the competition. Congratulations.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Some of last year's problem sites still persist. The 'windows' on the derelict cottage do look quite real. The roof however does catch the eye - is there anyway in which this could be improved upon? The signage on some the business premises is visually obtrusive, and inappropriate for the buildings to which they are attached and to the character for the village setting. Try to encourage the owners to remove this signage. This display of goods on the street also interferes with the overall physical character of the built environment and should be discouraged. Public buildings all looked very well again this year. Bridge House with its front garden and flowers is superbly presented. It is good that the new owner of the Methodist Church has plans for its restoration. The presence of the haulage vehicles' premises at such a central location is unfortunate - do what you can to screen it from public view.

LANDSCAPING

Your presentation this year like last year is excellent. There is an attractive design, use of materials and colours throughout the planted and landscaped areas on the roadsides and in spaces. The pighouse is now an asset rather than a hindrance to the amenity area. The planting you have carried out and refer to in your submission is quite extensive and the additional planting at 'The Wicklow Way Map' park will improve and extend its amenity value further. The bridge was looking extremely well. It is hoped that, as you intend, the sculptures will be in place on our visit next year.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your objectives and achievements in this new category are outstanding. The decision to plant with species indigenous to the area is commendable. You are fortunate in that the relevant landowner is enthusiastic about the river and the woodland and that you have the expertise of a wildlife expert available. The

mallard (those not devoured by the mink!) were seen during the adjudicator's visit. Well done on your achievements and ambitious plans for this area.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no evidence of a litter problem in the village on the day of the adjudicator's visit. This is an excellent achievement. Obviously everybody is well aware of the need to keep the village litter free and is very co-operative. Make sure that there are always empty bins available at strategic places for public use.

TIDINESS

The village looked exceptionally tidy with the exception of some business premises which were spoiled by profuse signage and the display of goods on the street outside business premises. The presentation of these few buildings could potentially hold back your progress in the competition so do what you can to persuade the owners to review the situation. At this level it is essential that any area within public view at business premises is always kept neat and tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of presentation is high again this year with some individual residences being exceptionally well presented. There are some other however which would benefit from a facelift, particularly along the front boundaries. Encourage all property owners to pay particular attention to boundary walls and roadside areas to these.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads looked neat and well cared for this year. The screening of the field along the road to the grotto with your own planting scheme is a good idea. Generally a very good standard throughout the village except at one or two entrances to properties where the presentation could be a little neater. You have a lot of approach roads and you are managing well in keeping them up to a high standard.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is most pleasant to visit your tranquil and lovingly cared for village in its beautiful setting. Within it there are some buildings of architectural value. As stated elsewhere there are one or two premises which interfere with the very positive overall impression. These may be difficult to tackle but don't give up the effort. Well done on your significant progress again this year and continue the good work.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/98)

Clonegal was looking very neat on second adjudication day. Hardly any disposable litter was visible. the useful comments of the first adjudicator should be taken into consideration when continuing with your impressive five-year plan. Few centres have had such a rapid rise in marking in the competition, a feat entirely due to the foresightedness of this committee and, obviously, the work of the entire community. This adjudicator was particularly taken by the stone commemorative plaques. Mass-produced signage is still a difficulty in achieving optimum results. Congratulations on a very fine showing.