

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	18	16
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	15	15
Tidiness	20	8	7
Residential Areas	30	15	13
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	153	146

Clones, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire and map, they were very helpful, as was your supporting material. I also hope the outcome of your funding application is positive. Based on last years report, this adjudicator assumes your five-year plan, will encompass many of the areas that need attention. Your working relationship with the various local bodies and organisations is praiseworthy. This co-operation brings its rewards in the form of practical and financial assistance, in addition to it being good PR for the work of the Tidy Towns Committee.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Diamond is a very attractive focal point for the town, and the County Council and many individual property owners are to be commended for their ongoing efforts in developing this area. The area around the Celtic Cross, with its fine paving and attractive lighting appears to be the new home for the cart and flowers mentioned in last years report. There are two very attractive houses behind the Cross, and if the adjoining properties were similarly presented, these along with the refurbished Rectory would greatly enhance this corner of the Diamond. The corner building adjoining the Bank in the Diamond looks very untidy, and detracts from this area. The old Cinema remains a problem, but there are many attractive shops on Fermanagh street and indeed around the town that caught the eye. Some of these include, Adamson's, (nice neat alley) Hardbury's , William Ear & Son, and Liptons. Mc Avilles Car Dealers looks untidy, and last year's comments regarding Jubilee Street still apply, with poorly presented premise still a problem. This adjudicator noted the Hariot Hall development which looks well. The Butter Yard is also an area that has potential. Similarly the Abbey is a lovely feature with potential, and the Round Tower is also a dramatic feature in the Town centre, but the graveyard needs some attention. Churches, Church Buildings, Schools and Public Buildings throughout the town looked well. The Children's Play Area looked very well, as did the Home for the Elderly. A well maintained Car Park at the Mart was noted, and the G.A.A. Park also looked well. This adjudicator acknowledges your comments about the large numbers of businesses closing. Many individual premises are well presented, brightly painted with attractive floral features, but the derelict or untidy buildings continue to detract from these good efforts.

LANDSCAPING

The landscape features, tubs and baskets throughout the town were well cared for, and attractively presented. Along with the individual efforts of many of the premises in the town, they provided a great splash of colour and enhanced the streetscape. The landscaping at the Bandstand also looked very well, with a

good mix of colour and content to last through the year. The planting beside the Recycling Bins was also noted. Some tall plants or shrubs that would form a screening effect, would also look well here. The Park in which the Bandstand is located, appeared to be locked on the day of adjudication, which seemed a pity. This adjudicator agrees with last year's comments in that landscaping will have a major role to play in the regeneration and presentation of Clones. It is also an advertisement for your Committee and its efforts. Continue your tree planting schemes, and keep up the good work.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your response begs the question, is there really no wildlife in Clones ???. The committee has a role in maintaining the natural environment within the town. There are many opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats and the environment within the town. Open spaces, ponds, grass areas and hedgerows all offer opportunities for development. The area around the Bandstand, or at the Canal Visitors Centre could be places to start. Work in conjunction with relevant local bodies, or a local wildlife expert to develop this area.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter remains a problem in some areas, particularly in open spaces, and car park areas. Some bins around the town need attention. The committee must remain vigilant in this important area. Bearing in mind your cautionary note about football crowds, the area around the G.A.A. Park was virtually litter free on the day of adjudication. Continue your education programme in the local schools, it is a worthwhile effort. Also continue your PR work, as it reinforces the whole communities responsibility in this very important area.

TIDINESS

Clones still has problems in this area throughout the town. Clones Tractors yard still looks very untidy, and further planting may screen this area from view. The old burnt out bus in the Car Park in Jubilee Street needs to be removed. Graffiti on the derelict building opposite Cherry Park needs to be removed. The new fences were noted around the Jubilee Road Car Park. It is important to keep the forecourts, yards, boundary walls and alleyways clean, tidy and weed free throughout the town. While improvements continue in this area, there is still much to be done, and the full co-operation of the community is necessary to achieve positive results.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many houses throughout the town and on approach roads, were well presented, with attractive hedges, lawns and flower features. The varied planting was noted in O' Neill Park, and the lovely old

pump looked well, but the seats need to be repaired and painted. The Children's Play Area also looks well, and the grass was cut, but some litter was evident. Cherry Park appears to be getting their plants soon, the grass was nicely cut, but the transformer needs to be tidied and painted. Oak View also had its grass nicely cut, and had some attractive well maintained flower beds. Many individual houses in the housing developments looked very well, nicely presented and well maintained, but they highlight many other homes that need attention. The new council houses also look well. There is a particularly nice housing developments on the Newtownbutler Road. The committee's work in this section is paying dividends, keep up the good work.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were generally good, but need regular and effective maintenance to keep them tidy. Street furniture looked well, although some bins need their liners replaced. Side roads and back areas, all need attention. Road surfaces, footpaths, kerbs and weed control all need attention in some areas of the town, although progress is being made in this area. The Car Park in Jubilee Street also needs some attention to its surface. Last year's comments about signposts and nameplates (possibly bilingual) for the streets still apply. It was good to see the brickwork progressing in the Diamond, it looks well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Last years comments still apply. Clones continues to steadily progress. The committee must be persistent in tackling the challenge of dereliction in the town, which will continue to hold you back unless addressed appropriately. Your progress to date is an advertisement to the general community, whose full co-operation you need to optimise the full potential of your town. Vigilant litter control, and attention to detail remain very important priorities for the committee. We look forward to further developments next year.