

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CLASHMORE**  
County : **WATERFORD**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	19
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>190</b>

## **Clashmore, County Waterford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the amount of detail which you put on the application form and the map which was most useful on adjudication day. It is clear from your comments and from this adjudication visit that your committee has been very active since last year's competition, the results of which are to be seen and for which all concerned are to be sincerely congratulated. It is important that you keep up a good relationship with your Local Authority and in conjunction with them you should consider drawing up a 3/5 year development plan for work to be carried out on a phased basis. In this connection there is no need to employ consultants or that the plan should be elaborate. It is a matter of involving as many people in the village as possible who would have knowledge of restoration, forestry and planting, painting and decorating, etc who would be capable, in conjunction with your Local Authority, of drawing up such a plan. Consult also with your local Regional Tourism Authority in Waterford who are responsible for the promotion of the Tidy Towns Competition at local level.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Grotto is exceptional. Well done to all concerned. Unfortunately the proposed waterfall was not in position on adjudication day but we look forward to seeing it in 1999. The school grounds were well presented but unfortunately the area in front of the rockery near the school detracted from this very nice facility. St. Mochuas Well is a lovely amenity but needs interpretation. This could be done by a simple display board (not unlike the one at the Grotto but smaller) giving details of the history of the Well. The old graveyard and church were also very well presented but again need interpretation. Perhaps this could be done in conjunction with the floodlighting. The Distillery Chimney is a fine example of industrial archaeology and should be preserved at all costs. The whole area in the vicinity of the Chimney is exceptional and was extremely well presented on adjudication day. However, it has to be said that the advertising sign for "The Old Still" does nothing to enhance this wonderful feature. Perhaps the owners could be persuaded to have it removed or provide a better type sign in keeping with the surroundings. The church and cemetery looked well on adjudication day. However, grass at this time of the year, needs constant cutting.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The riverside park and walk and Raheen walk are delightful. Congratulations to all concerned. However in the case of the latter it is disappointing that, at the end of the walk, there is an unsightly collection of old rusted farm machinery in full view. The riverside walk would, of course, benefit from the removal of the working sheds but we feel certain this will come in time. In the

meantime however, they are somewhat unsightly and should be removed as soon as is practical. Excellent work has been done on the walls, particularly on the approach from Youghal. However, and as mentioned in the last years report, considerable work still remains to be done on the walls on the Clonmel approach which are very unsightly. This should be a major item in your 3/5 year plan. The tubs of flowers and hanging baskets looked well and are ideal, in moderation, where open spaces are not available. However please consider further tree and shrub planting where possible which, particularly in the case of the latter, would give an all year round effect.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your comments on the application form on this heading have been noted. This is one of the newer categories in the competition with the emphasis on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodland, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. In the case of Clashmore you are exceptionally well endowed with many of these features and while it would be desirable to develop a specific wildlife habitat such as at the Raheen Walk, it is, nevertheless, important that similar habitats are preserved for wildlife in your graveyards, hedgerows, walls, etc. This again should be a matter which you should give every consideration to when drawing up your future plans. The guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. If there is a local wildlife expert or a member of your community with experience in this area please do draw on this knowledge.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The streets of Clashmore were completely litter free on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. However, and as mentioned in last years report, there was litter to be seen in the mill race, along the river walk and in one or two outlying areas which need attention. You are to be congratulated on the fact that the litter warden has visited your school and spoken to the children. If you have not already done so, do run some simple anti-litter competitions for the pupils and, where possible, get them involved in your efforts. It is important to constantly monitor the river area as such facilities tend to become a litter dumping area.

## **TIDINESS**

In most cases approach roads are very well kept. Adjudication normally takes place from either the speed limit signs or the village name plate sign, whichever you opt for. It would be important to keep the verges of these approach roads in good trim as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the village. Commercial premises in the village were very well presented but there are a number of protruding advertising signs which the owners should be encouraged to remove or to replace with more suitable hanging signs in keeping with the village architecture. It is

important also that paths be kept clear of advertising hoardings which might interfere with the passage of elderly or incapacitated people or those with failing eyesight. Commercial premises however, in general, looked exceptionally well, most notable being The Old Still, The Rising Sun, The Co-operative and Decies Bar. Street furniture and in particular seating needed a coat of paint. In this connection the village pump is a very nice feature and is been very well maintained

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are no housing estates in Clashmore but individual houses were exceptionally well presented with lovely gardens, which, as last year, were again bright and cheerful. In this connection Riverside House was exceptional but congratulations to all concerned on a splendid effort. In small localities the individual effort is all important in the Tidy Towns Competition. Keep up the good work. As far as the main streets are concerned perhaps, as part of any future plan, you might consider enlisting the aid of a colour consultant for any painting schemes which might take place. By nature of its architecture, the village would lend itself to a planned colour scheme. While many of the premises of Clashmore were very well presented, such a colour scheme would further complement the appearance of the village and would gain you extra marks in the competition. As a rule paint manufacturers have such consultants and, in the past, have been willing to offer such advice free to Tidy Towns groups.

## **ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS**

Generally speaking the roads in and around Clashmore are been very well maintained by the Local Authority as indeed are the backs roads leading to such facilities as the Raheen Walk, church, etc. Try to keep verges weed free and there was some evidence of this on adjudication day. It is important to note that the adjudicator does venture into the back streets and lanes when carrying out the adjudication and the condition of these areas is a consideration when allocating marks.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Clashmore is a delightful village and has benefited considerably from the Tidy Towns effort over a number of years. To make further progress in the competition it is advised that, as already mentioned, you draw up a 3/5 year plan which sets out specifically to deal with outstanding problems on a phased basis. However, do not allow such work to cause neglect to what you have already achieved which must be maintained as a priority. You should consider giving more attention to colour schemes, judicious planting (not over-planting) of trees and scrubs, the removal, where possible, of advertising hoardings and continuing the great work you have done on your walls.