

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CLONMELLON**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>200</b>

## **Clonmellon, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your very detailed map and information which were useful to the adjudicators. It may be useful to set out the plan into points and set a time scale so as to gauge how you make progress. The village looked well on the day of adjudication, though marks are more difficult to attain as you advance up the competition. The village is well laid out and has a fine main street, though located on a main road has pride in its appearance. Well done on work carried out to date.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The presentation of buildings in the village is set at a very high standard though there is still room for improvement in certain circumstances. The Credit Union, the Church (railing freshly painted) and School all look very well - well done to all involved. The Midland Centre is satisfactory. A number of premises could consider a more traditional approach to signage and shop/pub front when/if there are being refurbished in the future, e.g. Leonard's shop. Care must also be taken as to eliminate clutter from the windows and outside shops as this creates an untidy appearance. The simple approach to presentation of the pumps (Delvin road and in the village) is commendable.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The trees on the Kells road set a great welcome for visitors/passers by to the village. The planting of annuals looks well, though it would be advisable that more permanent planting in the form of perennials and/or shrubs would be considered where suitable. This creates more permanent framework within which to work. Many of the window boxes looked well though single colour does give greater impact. The planting around the base of trees should not be considered as this draws away nutrients from the tree and takes away visually from the simple shape and form of the trees.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Although the main street is busy with traffic and lorries etc. the side road up to the stream area is quiet and tranquil. Here habitats include freshwater, meadow and hedgerow and a resource analysis could be carried out as to ascertain as to what there is present, how it can be enhanced and managed. Planting through the woody area in the house next to the bridge shows how this can be carried out and the use of native plants is always encouraged. Some additional climbers such as honeysuckle could be considered for the fence.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There were a couple of pieces of litter evident on the main street in Clonmellon. Apart from these it appeared litter free on the side roads and leading roads. There are quite a number of litter bins which are well maintained. It is good to involve the children in keeping the village litter free.

## **TIDINESS**

The village appeared tidy on the day of adjudication. Attention should be paid to detail such as the removal of building materials and back areas and yards of houses/businesses visible from the road.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Residences looked well and displayed a sense of pride. The house beside the amenity area down the back road looked very well. There has been huge restoration work carried out here. The house on the main street featuring red geraniums made a good impact. There was evidence of care and attention by householders to their properties although not all fitted into the overall plan/scheme of the village. The houses in Hartstown Boreen had some fine gardens and were well presented.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The approach roads are generally well cut back and neat, although not too much to detract from the rurality of the location. The approach road from Kells is well cut back from along way out. Sand however, should be removed when work is complete. The Kilskyre road is very neat. The Killyon road is well presented though new speed signs should be considered. Problems have been identified in your plans and adjudicators look forward to the progress of work. It is good to see that selective cutting is taking place on the approach road with young trees being left in the field on the Delvin road and just a trimming of the hedges on the Kells road. Wildflower areas should also be encouraged and selectively cut back.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The craft centre and coffee shop is a tremendous amenity. It should be link in with other attractions/facilities and amenities in the area such as Ballinlough Gardens, Grove Gardens, Midland East Regional Tourism Authority, Meath and Westmeath Tourism etc. There are some nice hanging baskets adorning it. Further tourist information is required in it and a nice sign which makes good impact should be considered. The village has potential to do well in the competition and progress is evident each year - well done.