

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	235	232

Clonegal, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Clonegal is a delightful village to visit. It has a unique character and this has been fairly well preserved, even with all the development that has taken place. The map and accompanying information about developments in Clonegal were most welcome and very helpful during adjudication.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are many interesting buildings in Clonegal. The stone work is particularly interesting and has been both used and preserved well. The two churches are well cared for. The Church of Ireland with its large lime trees, old and surrounding cemeteries is very picturesque. The bridge house is of special note as also is the three storied buildings on the street. The bridge is a lovely sight, as are the well cared houses beyond this bridge. The riverside area at the little pig weighing area is attractive and such a pleasant place to ramble and view the bridge and river. The school is very well cared for.

LANDSCAPING

The surrounding landscape of the village provides a beautiful setting. There are many interesting landscape developments within the village. The roadside at the grotto gives a lovely character to the street. The greens at the top of the town have plenty of permanent planting which helps them look well all year. The hedges out to Parkbridge need some attention. Bindweed, briars and other weeds are smothering the thorn. There are some hedge gaps too. This would make a interesting restoration project. Gaps could be filled and the true benefit of a thorn hedge revealed. There are many really interesting gardens with a wide variety of plants these give a very pleasant style to the village. The developments behind the school area are being well done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river and woods are the obvious resource in this respect. The woodland planting is such a valuable project, well done for the achievement. The help from a wild life expert will allow the full benefits to be gained.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a very clean appearance in the village. Litter control requires constant vigilance and education in the schools.

TIDINESS

A very tidy appearance was noted on the day. The placement of

items outside shops is seldom desirable. It would be nice to ban all items outside shops and allow a clear frontage on the footpaths. The post office maybe could consider removing materials outside the shop as this is one of the most sensitive places in the village beside the bridge and the river.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Homes are well maintained with good décor generally. The Valley View area – with its sloping greens and ash trees looks attractive. The estate out to Parkbridge is well tended; however the white post and rail fence at the top of the bank needs repairing and painting. Individual homes have developed lovely gardens which raises the standard all around them

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roadside approaches are well maintained without being fussy or taking from the natural beauty of the area. Overclearing is not in keeping with the natural setting of the countryside. Roadside verges are often a source of wildlife their cutting must be in a manner that promotes wildlife.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clonegal presents a lovely picture and is a most interesting place to visit. There is a sense of interest and enthusiasm coupled with an awareness of the value of the natural environment

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/99)

The increase in marks proposed by the first adjudicator is fully justified. Planting in public and private places was seen at its optimum in early August. The Riverside development had progressed splendidly since this adjudicator was in Clonegal two years ago. The older houses in the lower village were looking most attractive – though one handsome building is marred by excessive signage. As a general rule, post and wire fencing should be avoided as it has a short life. It is hoped that the weaver's cottage can be saved, as it is a real gem. The car park opposite the R.C. church was exceptionally neat. If bleak – planting would help. Congratulations on your overall achievement.