

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLANE**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	35
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	20
Litter Control	40	28	30
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	206	209

Clane, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed entry form which was very informative on specific issues that the tidy town committee is addressing. Given the pace of growth associated with the town, there is a strong need for a three to five year plan which places into context future works and the staging and strategy or how these will be completed. It is quite evident that the local authority must have an overall strategy for the development of the town, however, it is through the Tidy Towns Committee and other residential associations where specific issues of a local nature can be addressed. Though this category has dropped three marks this should only be a short term issue as it is hoped that the mandatory three to five year plan would be submitted.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This category is very mixed as the central village proper and the large residential estates surrounding the village are of quite contrasting environments. The centre of the village is very much marred by the lack of car parking control and destroys any potential works that would be charming within this area of the town. It is recommended that the mobile shop which seems to have been in there for quite a while be upgraded in some creative manner so that it could present a better image at an important junction within the town. The recent works associated with the millennium monument and other monument beside the church are a good addition to increasing the diversity of items within the street scape. It should be mentioned that perhaps the location of the millennium cross requires a more protected site given the growth of different areas of the town and need for widening of roads.

LANDSCAPING

The village and triangular park are two very fine public amenities to have in the centre of the village. The stream is very pleasantly presented. Perhaps the most important thing of note in Clane at present is the lack of good connections and development of a clear open space policy throughout the town. It would seem that most open spaces developed are of border areas to roads entering the estates and that few of them are connecting internally and with some of the older open space areas. This is an issue that has been tackled in other towns and in some cases has been very effective in creating alternative routes and it is perhaps on this issue that the tidy towns should demonstrate their desires on how this aspect might be tackled in a three to five year plan.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is a pity that all the new plantings in the new estates are of foreign plants and that they do not contribute to the surrounding

wildlife. This aspect is raised as an element of concern because of the scale, place and extent of the new build areas in Clane. There is a great opportunity of reinforcing some of the older hedge systems that form the fields where the estates are at present and in some cases this could increase separation from the very busy roads. Again, this issue must be presented in a coherent set of goals and objectives within the development plan.

LITTER CONTROL

This aspect was quite poor as there were lots of sources of litter (i.e. shops) and little is being done to contain the spread of litter. Overall the litter is quite detractive to the overall tidiness of the town.

TIDINESS

There is no overall theme being developed that connects the old part of the village with all the new build areas, the mobile shop is quite a statement in the village centre and there is a significant amount of random signage. All of these items contribute to a very mixed environment. It is important to develop the sense of unity and not have too many different types of lamp standards or elements of street furniture. The mark has been increased more as an aspect of encouragement as many of the smaller projects carried out and maintained by the committee are very presentable.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All of the areas are very pleasant. Brick has become a strong feature for most of the elevational treatment of the buildings and thus colour does not play a very strong role in establishing the character or backdrop to the residential areas. The central park estate has kerbs full of weeds, litter in many of the grass areas and at the base of trees there is a need for weed trimming. The Meadows has a very good grass policy though it is perhaps too late to note that the griselenia hedges that have been planted at the front of all the gardens do not reflect the more rural character. The cobblelock used in the parking areas is beginning to fill up with weeds between the cobbles and this should be addressed as the overall structure of this type of paving system will be damaged. Park View provides a very strong enclosed entry point to the town. College Grove has a good entrance and it's noted in some of the estates that perhaps the trees have matured sufficiently to have the tree stakes removed.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

This is a very mixed category within this town given the impact of new build on many of the roads. Where building projects have slowed down or stopped, the roads are regaining an element of quality, however, in general most roads have very poor surfaces and there is a significant level of pot holes at junctions. Given the increased coverage of the town, there is now an increased number of entry points which require a creative approach to addressing the

entry sequence.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As with many towns outside the greater Dublin area, there has been a tremendous impact from new built housing and residential areas. At present it would seem that the Tidy Town Committee can play an important role in lobbying for certain environmental improvements to the town. Of particular note is that the amenity spaces need much stronger connection and at present do not offer the potential that can be gained from a much more thorough plan. This aspect is raised as it would seem that the care and maintenance of these spaces falls back on the resident's associations and as such they have a direct contribution to the long term potential. All the residential associations should be complimented on the successful efforts that they have put in to maintaining these spaces and it is hoped that a simple initial document can be created for presentation next year.