

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLOONE**
County : **LEITRIM**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	191	185

Cloone, County Leitrim

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The enterprise shown by this Committee by means of written answers to the annual questionnaire but more especially by the evidence of the work seen, quite literally, 'on the ground' has resulted in another unusually high increase in marking, in comparison with other centres. The suggestion of the adjudicator of two years ago that you should create a 3-year development plan is one which should be taken seriously. Such a plan will help identify the priorities of the next few years – now that the early initiative is over – and list projects alongside their projected completion dates. Next year, on your map, please mark all sites where development has occurred in the previous twelve months – it is unlikely that they will be missed, but one wants to be sure.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This adjudicator was greatly taken by the attractive blending of ancient and modern – from the old church tower on the hill to the fine church of recent design; the distant past and our own time being given full accord. The historical plaques are exceptionally interesting and well designed. Work was noted at the school, and this will be assessed next year, when completed. The removal of the prefabs is looked forward to. It would be good to find a use for the old National School, which is a fine building. The Garda Station is well maintained.

LANDSCAPING

New tree planting was very favourably noted. It is good to read that damaged trees have been replaced. Colourful planting here and there gives a pleasant 'lift' to the areas chosen, such as the monument; and it is good to see roses, and a variety of shrubs, which really are much better value than bedding plants, though the latter have their place.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The cutting of hedges at the right times is an admirable start. There are a number of projects which you could pursue under this heading – there are suggestions in the Tidy Towns guide. The field with the three wonderful old limes opposite the church is something which should always be cherished, for it brings the countryside right into the village.

LITTER CONTROL

It is surprising how much litter can accumulate in a smallish

community; however, your efforts, and especially those of the children, have been comparatively successful.

TIDINESS

Cloone was quite tidy on adjudication day, though weeds were intrusive in some places. Grass was growing though some of the fine new paving, and some side streets and entries – such as an entrance almost opposite the old school – detract from the general neatness. At the FAS project site, it might be better to sow grass and wild flowers rather than try to keep gravelled areas weed free. (The area beside the GAA park, which is not in the village and is not marked in the competition, gives a disappointing impression at the Mohill approach to Cloone, and the derelict Co-Op nearby does not help.)

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The older street houses, many of them very attractively painted, as well as newer homes with pleasant front gardens and lawns, show real community pride.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Street surfaces, with the exception of the road going to the graveyard, are very good, and paving throughout the village is first class. Recent stone wall building at the Community Centre and the Camp Field is splendid, in fact the village is notable for its excellent stonework, and this is one of the elements which gives it such character. (As a rule of thumb, which probably does not need to be stated here, it is as well to avoid post-and-wire fencing which deteriorates quickly and is hard to keep free of weeds, cement block walls, corrugated iron roofs, and plastic and mass-produced signage.)

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A visually harmonious and socially progressive village. The ever-present sense of history sent this adjudicator back to the pages of Humbert's expedition.