

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONES**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	20	18
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	12
Litter Control	40	15	15
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	156	153

Clones, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire, map and work programme for 1999 these were all very helpful. Your continued co-operation with local bodies is encouraging as is the aptly titled Town Regeneration Committee. The results of these partnerships are obvious again this year with continued progress in some areas of the competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many of the public and private buildings in the town looked well on the day of adjudication. Brightly painted and well maintained premises with attractive flower features all added to this first impression. Premises that caught the eye for the above reasons included the Garda Station, Public Health Centre, Sloweys, Credit Union, P Geoghan, Abbeygate Bar and Clones Dry Cleaners, Round Tower Bar, Leonard Arms, Bank of Ireland and Diamond Decor with its original sash windows. It is good to see many new shops and shop fronts in Forrester Street. The Paragon, Cuill Dara, Edward Ogrady, The Roost Bar, D. Hall, An Cistain Nollain, Packie Willies and the County library all looked well. The Rectory will look well when work is complete adding another nice feature building to the Diamond area. There is still some buildings that detract from the excellent efforts to improve this important focal centre of the town. The refurbished building opposite Packie Willies looks very well and it is good to see that the original sash windows were retained. Some very attractive old tile features were noted at the Tower Lounge. The Butter Market which reflects the market heritage of the town deserves to be tidied and its general presentation improved. The GAA pitch/Car Park, Town Cemetery and the very tidy Mart area and the school opposite looked well. The R. C. Church, Car Park and Temperance Hall all looked well with some attractive floral features. The dull looking school building close to the Church needs some attention. The C.O.I Church is undergoing some repairs, and the other tidy church, school in the town, with its lovely railings is somewhat spoiled by the waste ground adjoining. It is unfortunate that the Convent, like the building on the next corner has fallen into disrepair. The halting site entrance looks tidy but the avenue up to the Enterprise Centre needs its grass cut. It is encouraging to see the development on Jubilee Street continues although there is still room for improvement. The tidy Londis Car park will look well when its landscape work is complete. The old Cinema looks very untidy and the Car Park behind it still needs some attention. The Children's Play area looks well and Clones Lace and the Masonic Hall both looked tidily presented. The other Hall on Cara Street, and the stone building opposite the

Round Tower need some attention, (just some cosmetic tidying for the latter) as they are attracting litter and look untidy.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping enhances an environment and the many tubs and baskets throughout Clone's certainly brightened up the streetscape. The two brightly painted Carts in the Diamond were well cared for and the new seats were also noted. Barry Mc Guigan park looked well, as did the landscaping at Fieldhaus, A.I.B.P, Largy College and the Sacred Heart Nursing Home. The Famine Memorial is a really beautiful feature and nicely maintained. The road surface is dreadful and the road is badly sign posted. The Church Car Park with its beautiful tree looks very well. There are still some fine premises that could be further enhanced with flower features like the Ulster Bank and the Post Office. The bollards and flowers were noted outside the derelict McAnille Motors which remains an eye sore. There are still plenty of opportunities for appropriate tree planting (including native species) and landscaping in the housing developments and on the approach roads.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to see that you are working with local bodies to develop this important section of the competition. There are many opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats within your chosen site and in other areas of the town. Wild flower meadows/grass areas, nesting boxes, pond/water features, trees and hedgerows offer additional opportunities. The local children and their school and grounds are an option for developing some of these opportunities. When choosing appropriate signs for projects ensure they enhance rather than detract from the environment you are promoting and preserving. Work in conjunction with relevant local bodies, ENFO, or a local wildlife expert to develop this area.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter evident throughout the town on the day of adjudication. Some derelict sites, the recycling bins and Car Parks continue to attract litter. A basement grate outside Matthews of Clones is also attracting litter even though there is a bin close by. Your litter awareness programme is a good idea. School poster competitions/essays, talks, Voluntary Clean up days and effective publicity are all useful ideas in trying to prevent litter in the town. Some of your bins still need attention eg. Liners replaced in bin frames. The Committee and Community must remain vigilant in this important area.

TIDINESS

As stated last year Clones continues to improve in this section of the competition. There is still a lot of work to be done as many premises and open areas need attention. The old Cinema is now attracting bill postering. The Court House needs its broken windows repaired and the graffiti removed. The untidy site opposite Cherry Park remains an eyesore. The old abbey is also attracting litter making this lovely feature building look untidy. However two very tidy alleys were noted at the Stags Head and B Mc Coskers Wine and Spirits. Clones Tractors and adjoining site looks untidy and while the planting was noted at the recycling bins, they are still attracting litter. It is important that all areas of the town are appropriately maintained and kept tidy and litter free. This includes forecourts, back yards, kerb edges, all open spaces, and areas between properties. Back alleys/yards, should be appropriately screened particularly in areas which attract rubbish or dumping.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Once again many houses throughout the town on the approach roads and in the housing developments were well presented. Many attractive garden lawns, hedges and flower features were noted and well done to all concerned. However these nicely maintained homes highlighted those that need to be tidied, or have their paint work refreshed. The flowerbeds, grass and trees looked tidy in Cherry Park, but the small utility building still needs attention as it is now attracting graffiti. The open areas in O Neill Park were also tidy but the play area still needs a bin. The pump in this estate looks very well again however the seats need to be repainted. The homes on the Newtownbutler Road look well as did the small housing development on Jubilee Street. Beech Grove has some lovely beds but it requires some more trees. The grass in this development is very badly damaged. Oak View also has some nice landscaping features. A very attractive housing development with some lovely landscaping was noted on the Enniskillen Road. Particular credit must also go to all the individual householders who maintain the areas outside their properties.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads create the first impression of any town and therefore deserve particular consideration. There was a very mixed standard of presentation on the approach roads to Clones, with an inconsistent presentation of verges, hedges and town signs. Many good footpaths and a very mixed standards of road surfaces were evident throughout the town. Some smaller roads and Car Parks are in particular need of attention. The Diamond looks well

now the paving is finished but the steps down to Forester Street need a hand rail. The two graveyards in the town looked well and St.Tierney's Cemetery was getting its grass cut on the day of adjudication, but the sign for the round tower needs to be replaced.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Once again last years comments apply. Clones continues to develop and progress in certain areas of the competition. It is good to see new development, but dereliction remains a serious drawback for the committee and the town. Dereliction and untidy sites are a challenge faced and overcome by many competitors in this competition. Group clean ups, approaches to the owners and some simple cosmetic paint work can be effective. Attention to detail, "Good Housekeeping" and vigilant litter control again remain important priorities for the committee. The full co-operation of the local bodies and the community are required for sustained progress. Preserver and well done for your continued enthusiasm and interest.