

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONBULLOGUE**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	40
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	35
General Impression	10	8	9
TOTAL MARK	300	248	248

Clonbullogue, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed entry form which explains in great detail the particular approach that is being taken by the committee. It perhaps could have most of this information presented in the three to five year plan which really is still required. As the entry form seem to be taking over this particular document, two documents should be presented next year and much of this can be transcribed from the entry form. However, because the entry form contains so much information relating to the map supplied, there has been no drop in marks but it is advised to have such a document prepared and such a package should see an improvement in this category.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Gleenon's pub had a very good colour scheme as did the bridge over the river which is very well presented and both look very well. The Forge is an interesting element to any village environment. The churches and schools are very well presented; what is very noticeable about the village is the amount of interesting items that have developed over the years that add to the complexity and diversity of the village setting such as the fountain and the features of the river walk. These items aid in creating a connection between the built environment and the landscaped setting. As the map describes, there is quite a lot of new housing going on and hopefully this will be integrated with recognition to matching with some of the traditional building details associated with the village.

LANDSCAPING

The river and picnic area near the Clonbullogue road junction are very comfortable spaces to stop off at and provide very good facilities with an interesting treatment for the spring and windmill. The walk was very well maintained and the recently planted trees that are now maturing are going to be of very good long term benefit. The triangle at the junction of the Rathangan road is one of the major large open spaces in the village. This triangular space could possibly do with more planting so as to anchor the pump more properly to the space and use this space more effectively as a display area. The other

large space is very well maintained with significant numbers of flower beds, however, they seem to be located to stop ball games and as such seem to lack a defined purpose or reason for connecting to other spaces. These are now an established aspect of the planting in the open space. Perhaps better connection to the edges of this space could make these flower beds more important.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river walk was very pleasant to use and the archway that is formed between the trees no doubt will mature in future years. This category is an important item in establishing the direction of the committee to the rural environment and perhaps in the development plan this could be expanded so as to illustrate and have an influence on the other categories in the adjudication process.

LITTER CONTROL

The village has some sources of litter but all of these are very well controlled and as such there is no litter around the village and everyone in the town must be complimented for pulling through with this category.

TIDINESS

The village presented a very high standard and on the day of adjudication the weather was exceptional thus making the visit very pleasant. Perhaps the next move in this category is to try and establish better connection through the village with plant materials and not to have so much variation in the connecting of the spaces.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As stated in the entry form there is a very good objective to establish a compatible image between the various open spaces and achieve a link that blends with the old and new parts of the village. This at present is being created by the use of roses which display fantastic colour and are used in many of the gardens; all the houses very much aid in creating the village character as a result of the very pleasant garden. It should be mentioned that given the new development that is occurring in the village, material selection for the new houses should match with existing parts of the village so that there are not too many different types of finishes along the street frontage.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The corner of Cloncrane Road is very colourful and all the grass is very well cut and swept. Distant entries to the village signal the due care and diligence that is involved in the presentation of this village and maintain a very pleasant rural atmosphere. Consideration should be given to the trees at the junction of Clonbullogue as these trees are in wire mesh guards that are filling up with long grass and pieces of litter. Perhaps these guards could be removed as the trees would seem to be strong enough not to need such protection. The main street is very pleasant to drive along and the car park at Glennons pub is very presentable with simple colour and good definition.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This village is an example of making the most of the existing latent resources in their urban and landscape environments. All areas are very pleasant and there is a scale maintained that reinforces the sense of cottage environment. Perhaps the strongest aspect of the village is how all the various parts have been pulled together to relate to each other and this also extends to the painting concepts that have been used throughout. Perhaps the terminal points of the village particularly at the large triangular space and Church of Ireland, could do with further improvements which should be addressed in the development plan but this is perhaps easily dealt with through a landscaping approach. All the people involved in maintaining and contributing to the image of this village must be complimented.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/99)

The rains following the very fine weather made Clonbullogue look very fresh and green and encouraged the summer bedding schemes. The beech hedging scheme is very impressive and will greatly enhance the village in the future. There is a very well tended atmosphere in the village. The new housing while disruptive at present will settle down. It is important to ensure that all surrounds of such new buildings are reinstated perfectly. The river walk is attractive and the presence of swans amid the water lilies gives a lovely touch. The planted green by the fountain on the approach to Woodlawn is looking well. Maybe if there was a more unified approach here – for instance if the flower borders adjoined the shrubberies or if the flower borders were larger with some height provided by shrubs or

trellis bearing roses the entire landscape would be improved. The flower borders at present are a little flat and slender in shape for the size of the green. The green within Woodlawn drive deserves a tree – maybe a central tree, the large chestnut at the old school building opposite Lennons could be repeated here. The road surface at the junction of Lennons needs attention to pot-holes as does the carpark of this premises. The very clean simple grassed approach roads and hedges provides a good entrance