

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CLONEYGOWAN**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-1999

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1999 | Mark Awarded 1998 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 21                | --                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 24                | --                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 24                | --                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 14                | --                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 36                | --                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 13                | --                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 21                | --                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 30                | --                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 5                 | --                |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>188</b>        | <b>--</b>         |

## **Cloneygowan, County Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Welcome back into the competition and may the future work to the village achieve the goals for the environmental improvements that you seek through entering the Tidy Towns competition. Since 1996 which was your last date of entry, the competition has introduced some more rigorous criteria that are part of the adjudication process; in particular the development of a three to five year work plan is now required. This is an important document to submit each year with your entry form. This is a separate document and must outline the tasks undertaken in a specific year and the overall objectives of your programme over the next three to five years. At present this document has not been submitted and the marks reflect the need to have such a document created.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The village has a strong core of buildings encircling the main space but has over the years expanded to create an element of ribbon development on the entry roads into the village. All housing is very well maintained and is presented with a good range of colours and very pleasant front gardens facing the roads. The Green demarks the centre of the village and has a very strong pattern associated with its layout. At present there are some vacant premises facing onto the green and these detract from the overall setting. No doubt, in future years, they will be reoccupied; however, at present some creative measures may be required to upgrade the presentation of these premises. The school is really most charming and presents a most organised and very cared for environment; the colour scheme is very good and definitely underlines the ability of the village to use colour properly. It is in colour selection that the village may need to develop a series of themes so as to achieve a cohesive unity for the buildings surrounding the Green. The newly painted walls demonstrate that this process is already starting.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Green is very well cared for and as in past years is well mown and cuttings are removed. Areas of maintenance that need greater focus are the outer edges of the green beside the surrounding buildings particularly leading up to the school. The grotto could do with better integration with the Green so as to continue the theme across the surrounding lane. The school is an excellent example of display planting and has some very interesting patterns associated with the planting of willows. As in previous years comments, the incorporation of window boxes onto some of the structures may again reinforce the character of a village green and integration of structures. In some ways it could be said that the green is

already a mature landscape and efforts for future years should be directed towards the edge treatment of the green and better integration of the surrounding environment to extend the concept of the village, however, it must be noted that current efforts create a very gentle and relaxed space.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There is no mention of the wildlife component or how it is approached; perhaps the school already has a programme for addressing this particular issue; it is important to state how this item is explored and developed.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control is very good in the village; however, the mark has been assessed by reference to your overall approach to litter treatment. This village has very few litter sources. As such it is much easier to maintain litter free than other villages and towns. The village must be complimented on its very strong programme of maintaining a litter free environment.

## **TIDINESS**

The Green was very tidy as were the approach roads beside the Green. Buildings need stronger attention and where buildings touch the surrounding lane to the green, the carriageway should be swept clean of loose gravel and edges clearly demarked.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Cloneygowan is essentially a residential community with very little commercial development, as such the village is very well presented and the front gardens are particularly pleasant in reinforcing the sense of place.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The entry roads into the village have a very pleasant rural character; however, it is noted that there are a couple of blind spots on some of the bends which should be addressed to ensure an element of safety for pedestrians. It is very difficult to deal with the high number of trucks that pass through the village and the associated loose gravel that they bring with them; however, this aspect of loose gravel at kerbs has an impact on the associated tidiness of the village. Entry from both sides is discreet and reinforces the impact of the very well maintained village green.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The general impression is that of a very well tended village

and a strong focus provided by the village green. In some ways this focus can be further reinforced by a strong plan establishing a colour theme and edge definition to the major space. Again, welcome back into the competition and the results for future years no doubt will reflect the charm of this village.