

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONEGAL**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	37
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	17	18
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	241	235

Clonegal, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your very comprehensive documentation, photographs and map, which helped greatly on adjudication day. It was most interesting to read about the developments that have taken place and which are ongoing in Clonegal. Your developmental approach, overall, very clearly sets out your objectives for each year. You have made great strides in this competition in a very short period. The enthusiasm of the committee and the community is refreshing to see. You continue to work closely with Carlow County Council, Wexford County Council, FÁS, the BNS, Coillte, schools and the many organisations and craftspersons in the locality. Well done to all concerned. It has brought great dividends over the years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The map submitted on the built environment was very interesting. Many buildings date back to the 17th century, through the present day. The situation of Clonegal is very attractive. Mountain ranges and some lovely vegetation are a feature. The built environment throughout the village is maintained very well and that includes the school, churches and the dispensary. Most of the commercial properties are nicely presented and hopefully, the post office and the store will have future plans to improve their properties. On the day of adjudication the Weavers' Cottages were in the final stages of completion. Your plans for this eventually are good and it is an ideal location for the demonstration of weaving and other crafts. The graveyards, again are kept neat and tidy. The pump is also a delightful feature and is maintained very well. As mentioned earlier, the churches are all maintained in good condition. It is good to see that the new owner of the Methodist Church will begin work on it later. Another very historical building is the Watch House and perhaps suitable window treatment can be found for it. The Forge Stone, dating back to 1798, is well preserved and had some lovely planting done. I note your plans for the Pig House and, no doubt, you will undertake to paint the wall and doors. Perhaps over the coming months those who still have plastic signage could be encouraged to replace it. They might also consider the use of bi-lingualism, where appropriate on the new signs. The school which is on a raised site is very well presented and a lot of work has been done over the years.

LANDSCAPING

Tremendous hardwork has been put into the landscaping of the village and in its improvement and maintenance, which

is most important. An amount of planting has been done over the past five years and it has certainly improved and enhanced the village. I note that you were winners in Carlow's Floral Pride competition in 1999, congratulations and well done! Among the delightful features are the screen at the Tullow Road and the bank behind it, the school bank, St Fiacc's church on the Tullow Road and the school field are fantastic achievements. An incredible amount of hard work went into developing these projects and the landscaping of them. The Derry River View is a delightful area and the landscaping here is excellent. Again, there is some lovely landscaping done in the open space at St Brigid's and across the road where the poplar trees are. The seats and picnic table are in perfect condition and again, the Tullow approach road and Valley View road look splendid. In the years ahead, all the recent planting will blend in with the existing vegetation.

WILDLIFE LIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Very serious thought and consideration has been given to the development of wildlife in your village. You have worked on the river as your resource and also the new woodland on the other side. The new signboard listing all wildlife to be found on the riverside is very well done. There is an incredible amount of wildlife in the area which includes the plant, animal, bird and fish life. It is also very interesting to see that you have a colony of bats and owls. You have done great work in making progress under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

Your arrangements for the prevention and control of litter are very good and it is noted that you have entered into a partnership agreement with the Carlow County Council on a litter management plan. There is a large area to cover and you have succeeded in doing a very good job. The bins were in very good condition and clean.

TIDINESS

The control of weed growth at kerbs, the base of walls and buildings was very good throughout with the exception of some of the kerbs in the Valleyview Estate which needed weeding. The recycling centre is being kept neat and tidy but vigilance is necessary on a continuous basis.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential areas throughout are kept very well. The new planting at both corners to the entrance at St Brigid's Terrace is to be commended. The residents here present their properties to a very high standard and well done to all concerned. Watch out for staining on the gable ends of houses and perhaps a solution could be found for this. The

entrance to the Vallyeview housing estate looked very well as the property owners take great pride in their houses. Some boundary walls will need attention. Almost all of the residents in Clonegal have co-operated with you. No doubt they will come on board in due course.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Your approach roads are maintained to a very good standard and a lot of work has been done to the Carlow and Tullow approach road which gives a great first impression. The bridge is well maintained on the Carlow Road and also the footpaths throughout are in good condition. The new nameplates have been erected and look very smart. Most of the other signposting is clean and in good condition. Some of the 30mph speed limit signs need to be repainted. The car park and the amenity area are clean and weed free.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You, as the Tidy Towns Committee, have succeeded very well in presenting Clonegal to a high standard. Exceptional hard work and effort has gone in over the years and, indeed, in the past year to bring about further improvement. This hard work has resulted in improving an enhancing the overall presentation of the area. You are a very focused and hard working committee. No doubt this will bring results sooner rather than later. Keep up the very good work.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (01/08/00)

The second adjudicator agrees with the first - the village demonstrates that its residents are pursuing a definite plan of action. Nonetheless there are some details which greatly detract from the overall presentation: these include some untidy yards and entrances, and commercial premises disfigured with insensitive and overused signs. The Weavers Cottages had been completed to a high standard by the beginning of August. The prolific beautiful, delicate planting along the roadsides was much admired; in this context the removal of ornamental conifers is recommended. The stone historic signs are a worthwhile reminder of the heritage of the village.