

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CLONAKILTY**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	45
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	34
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>257</b>

## **Clonakilty, Co. Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The adjudicator would first of like to congratulate the Tidy Towns Committee, Clonakilty UDC, Cork County Council and the people of Clonakilty on their superb achievement in winning the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Also the adjudicator would like to thank you for the comprehensive documentation submitted with the entry form, including the Clonakilty Plan of January 1998. The concept of dividing the town into strategic action zones for the purposes of the competition is an excellent one. Another key feature appears to be the very strong make-up of your Tidy Towns Committee and the key involvement of youth in the Committee. Your aspirations in regard to the further under grounding of overhead cables is welcomed, and hopefully there will be progress on this issue for the 2001 Competition.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

In general terms the built environment of Clonakilty is very strong, and little if any dereliction was noted. The buildings in Clonakilty relate well together and the strong use of bright colours is highly effective. Emmet Square is a key centre-piece in the town and was well presented. The consultants design proposals submitted with the entry documentation were noted. The new tree planting proposals for here are welcomed. It is good to see that Clonakilty has looked to the urban needs of the disabled in a serious way. The special crossing areas in Ashe Street and elsewhere are excellent; Braille instructions in the toilet in Kent Street were also noted. Much good restoration work has been implemented which include the Brewery area, the old Town Hall in McCurtain Street. The Faxbridge development with its mixed nature is excellent. It is good to see some progress being made on the Garage property in this area, and well done to those involved. Your submission noted the plans to reduce the number of bollards in use in Clonakilty, and this is indeed desirable. The new Hotel in Strand Street and the Emmet Hotel refurbishment are excellent developments, and the Credit Union development plans sound most interesting. The new Tourist Information Office was well presented in a good colour scheme. The Model Village project continues to play a key role in tourism in the town and attractive planting was noted here. Excellent flower displays were seen at An Sugan. At the Garda Station the railings and the road boundary wall require painting, and the gates of the Church of Ireland Church also require painting. A simple but most effective shop-front was seen at Clonakilty Crafts Centre. The presentation of both Banks impressed as did the Edward Twomey premises. The timber-work of the premises opposite O'Donovan's Hotel needs urgent attention and re-painting. Many other premises were excellently presented including

M.J. O'Neill, and especially D & M Harrington Chemist, which appears to be a totally new shop-front. Some shops with tiled fronts still remain and these are not in keeping with the overall image of the town. John Atkins & Co. makes excellent uses of colour and limited flower baskets. The upper windows presently un-used have been skilfully treated. Car Parks were in general well presented and re-surfacing works look well. At Chateaulin Orchard weed growth was noted.

## **LANDSCAPING**

Emmet Square gardens were very well presented and the future plans were noted. Your tree planting programme is excellent and you have given wise consideration to the best trees to use in the town centre, as distinct from other areas. The three year tree planting programme is an excellent investment in the future in terms of visual appearance, and this is already bringing good results. The upgrading plans for the Enterprise Park area are noted and this general area does need improvement. On Strand street five tall unpainted holders for hanging baskets were noted, but without baskets. The adjudicator is concerned that the provision of floral displays in Clonakilty is in some instances very close to being over done. More flowers does not necessarily mean a better visual presentation.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You are adopting a very focused approach to the wildlife aspect of the Competition and this is strongly welcomed. The Clonakilty Bay Nature Trail is an excellent development as are the Information Boards provided. The ducks in the River Feagle seem content and the river is a great asset to Clonakilty. The trout re-stocking programme for Gullane Lake is welcomed as is the suggestion of developing a bird sanctuary here.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

It was in the area of litter control that the adjudicator found reason for real concern. Overall Clonakilty appears to be a very litter free town, but closer examination revealed litter in quite a large number of areas spread over the town on adjudication day. On the previous evening litter was again noted. The areas of concern included the area just before the Esso Garage, and near the National School on the Western Road, at the Pearse Street and Patrick Street junction, Strand Road and Emmet Square, and considerable quantities were noted in Wolfe Tone Street. Litter again was seen near the Jade Garden on McCurtain Hill, and near the Playground on the Skibbereen road, on Quay Road opposite the timber fencing and at the Model Village. It was most disappointing to note so much litter in the Feagle River. This included bottles, a Coca Cola can, a piece of yellow plastic bucket, and white paper. Kent Street itself had litter along by the river wall. The

adjudicator appreciates that Clonakilty takes the litter control issue very seriously, but the situation seen by the adjudicator is not worthy of a National Tidy Towns winner. Some three hours after the adjudicator started some of the same litter was in place. The re-cycling investigation being carried out with Cork County Council is welcomed.

## **TIDINESS**

The "Bring Site" proposals and the Schools re-cycling projects are most useful. At the back of Western Villas a very untidy space was noted with a broken wall on a corner. Weed growth at kerbs was noted on Michael Collins Road, and was very bad at the nicely painted houses nearby. Sundry small untidy spaces were noted on Old Chapel Lane. The National School on O'Rahilly Street requires repainting together with the boundary wall with the street. Outside the Show Grounds the broken post and chain fencing looks very untidy and needs replacement. At the 40 MPH and Clonakilty signs on this road (Skibbereen) weeds were seen to be growing through the cobble-lock paved areas. At the GAA grounds the road boundary wall is in need of re-painting. Very bad grass growth was noted here at the base of the wall, and at the base of the wall a little further on. Across the road from the Garage at Faxbridge there is a large slightly untidy open space. The small lane to the side of Tom Sheehy & Co. was noted as being untidy and litter was also noted in this lane. The adjudicator noted that the display of racks of retail goods on pavements is creeping into Clonakilty. This can make pavements dangerous for the disabled and must be discouraged.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The new development on the Western Road was noted and hopefully these houses will be properly landscaped and painted appropriate colours. The Faxbridge mixed development policy is innovative and progressive. Your plans to develop links to the various Schools are excellent. The Clonakilty Town House property looked well and attractive gardens were noted on Patrick's Hill. The use of strong colours on private houses in O'Rahilly Street is effective. The Old Coach House is another property which caught the eye. Overall private houses both older and more modern, were well presented on adjudication day, and this reflects great local pride.

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

On the Skibbereen approach main road good landscaped areas were noted, but grass growth at the base of road kerbing was also a feature. The trees on this approach provide excellent wildlife cover. On McCurtain Hill an attractive small grouping of trees was noted on the way up, however at the 40 MPH signs the banks had not been cut. The Patrick's

Hill, Brewery area, and Skibbereen relief Road roads were all well presented. On the Ardfield road banks had not been cut. On Casement Street some private houses are in need of painting or a painting touch up, and some gable walls require attention also. On the approach from Ring bad weed growth was noted at the base of road boundary walls. Further out verges had been cut but cut grass was not taken away. The Cork approach road was really excellently presented. However a narrow entrance area on the left hand side coming into town was untidy.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Much work has been done and is being done in Clonakilty by the Committee and the many support groups and individuals involved. The issue of litter control needs to be given additional attention. Good luck with the good work !

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/00)**

Although the standard of litter control was much improved since first adjudication, it was disappointing to note a small amount of litter visible in the attractive central stream area by the bridge in the vicinity of the GAA grounds. There was much evidence of preparation for the Entente Florale Competition, in terms of abundant floral displays and the adjudicator would like to take this opportunity to wish Clonakilty all the best for same. Rear areas of the town generally looked well, although perhaps the back of houses to Emmett Square could be considered when next painting them. The GAA grounds, as mentioned by the first adjudicator, will need freshening up before next year's competition.