

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLANE**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	32
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	207	206

Clane, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The village of Clane is beset by traffic congestion particularly during the rush hour periods. Traffic calming has been implemented and the parking bays throughout the town look well and are functional. A plan is required for the town though. This should set out your aims and objectives and provide you with a vision for the future.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town has expanded considerably and now there are a good number of shops and other outlets catering for every need of the local resident. It will be interesting to see how the development of the proposed Clane Shopping Centre unfolds. All new shops in Clane have the same style, which gives it a unified approach. These include the navy and cream shops on the Kilcock approach which will look well when inhabited. The front area of Scoil Mhuire looked well – work was being carried out on the School. Clane hospital is a fine modern building and was well presented. The red standard roses at Scoil Phadraig looked well and new planting was being carried out in the adjacent school. Conneff Park was neat and tidy and there was not litter spotted – well done. Mazors pub looked exceptionally well and commendation must be given to the carpark. The lobelia has unfortunately died in the window boxes leaving only the red geraniums. There are some fine shops and these include Bobb's, Tom Gough and Sons, Maries Antiques, Kennys Bar and Jones Bar. Jones retains its old world character. The uniqueness of the community centre must be the envy of other towns and villages. The John Sullivan Resource Centre looked well and had some fine baskets. Clane Football Club was not well presented and it was untidy with some litter evident.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping throughout Clane was excellent. The bollards on the bridge out towards Newbridge need repainting. It was well cut back at the river and looked well. Planters on the Newbridge road should be removed too as they look tatty. The new monument looks interesting – is there a story behind this – it seems to echo the church building behind it though.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It was nice to see the children playing beside the water edge on the day of adjudication. The photographs of the daffodil planting were good and these will multiply each year. They can be supplemented with other Spring bulbs as time goes on

and perhaps the town can aim towards a Springtime floral display which would set it apart from other towns in the area. Similar to the advice in last year's report, try and bring the rural hinterland into the town and surrounding estates with the use of hedging such as hawthorn so as to encourage wildlife. There are also several green areas in estates that could be cornered off and managed as wildflower meadows. Various mixes can be bought to attract butterflies and bees.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a limited amount of litter evident on the day of adjudication. The adjudicator liked the '365 day litter pick-up' on the form. It sums up the persistence required. If the town is clean it makes it more difficult to litter, though education and awareness are the keys to success. Clane Football Club and some of the estates were the main culprit areas. The main street seemed devoid of litter – well done. Litterbins were not very visible and some were full (blue bin at the top of the main street). In saying that the town was very busy and judges may have missed some of the bins. Bins were also needed in some of the estates though it is important that these are collected on a regular basis and are covered to prevent /bird interference. Flyposting was noted on some of the poles – this is a problem as the posters are difficult to remove.

TIDINESS

Clane was quite tidy and this was mainly contributed by the lack of litter and the tidy centre. The uncut grass on some of the approach roads did not create a good impression though dumping was not a problem.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are several new estates around Clane and similar to most new estates have the lead in gates and entrance and the landscaped areas. Echoing last year's report, try and ensure greater use of native plants rather than exotics. Oakfield Park and Otomi? were well presented though here were some weedy areas evident. Loughbollard had a huge number of litterbins and no litter – well done. There were some weedy areas and the beds needed weeding. The trees in the Oaks will look well when mature Parkview had a good front entrance and some nice landscaping. Some front walls required repainting. Both Hillview and Collegewood were good and Meadowcourt was fine except there was grass growing through the shrubby areas. Other housing on the approach roads particularly the Sallins road were well presented. There was a fine Georgian house in the centre of the town, which is well painted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads varied in their presentation. The Prosperous approach was only reasonable further out of the town. The Sallins approach was quite tidy and had long uncut grass. Further out the stud has made an excellent effort and it looked very well. However on this approach the broken fencing near the Liffey bridge and the broken wall gave a poor impression. The Newbridge approach was cut back well though there was quite a bit of litter in the undergrowth. The parking bays throughout the town looked well, however people coming out of these did cause delays in the traffic. Lights may be needed at the Kilcock junction in the future. The approach past the Centre Supermarket needed attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is good to see the community and village ethos being retained in Clane. The residential areas have made great effort and perhaps the town is large enough now to host an inter-estate competition. Good luck with your work in the coming year.