

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONDRA**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	23	24
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	180	180

Clondra, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Clondra is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. The village enjoys an enviable location at the terminus of the Royal Canal overlooking the river Shannon and next to an island rich in wildlife. Clondra has an interesting layout with gentle curves in its streetscape and three bridges. A number of buildings are quite old which gives the village a great sense of history. We note with interest the planning application to redevelop the mill for apartment blocks. We hope that this revitalises the village and enhances the quality of life of the existing residents.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Some buildings could do with being freshly whitewashed. The church boundary wall could be a little fresher and it is beginning to look a little weatherstained and will soon need to be repainted. The school looks well but its boundary wall could do with a fresh coat of paint. There is a wonderful view of a handsome building on approaching from Tarmonbarry end which includes not only the mill but the three and four storey buildings on the canal itself, i.e. the Richmond Inn and the adjoining buildings. It is hoped that the Mill redevelopment will be sensitive to the architectural character of the village.

LANDSCAPING

The hard surfaced amenity area at the bridge located across from the Richmond Inn looks great. One of the greens at the junction with the N5 could feature a shrubbery or a rockery. Consider planting trees behind stone walls leading from the junction with the N5 towards the village at least as far as the Sports Injury Clinic. Perhaps an arrangement of boulders or sculpture piece could be featured on the greens on the Tarmonbarry end of the village at the junction with the main road.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The graveyard was somewhat overgrown. An incidental green area near the bridge at the mill could be developed for amenity, i.e. feature seating and perhaps an arrangement of stones. A habitat survey should be undertaken and species identified. The Conservation Volunteers of Ireland might be consulted regarding the wildlife value of the island.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good, but some of the bins were full to overflowing. A stock of new litter bins (still in plastic bags)

located at the bridge at the Richmond Inn, no doubt these will be in place for next year's competition.

TIDINESS

A number of derelict buildings and untidy side areas and gates are a problem under this heading. Weed growth was quite prevalent along the base of walls and side areas. The corrugated roof of the outbuilding located across from the Richmond Inn should be treated or a fast growing climbing plant allowed to grow over it. A derelict building near the old nameplate at the Tarmonbarry end of the village looks as though it is a fine building. Could it be redeveloped for community use?

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most boundary walls along the stretch of road from the N5 towards the village centre are in need of attention. The property located across from the national school on the Killashee road is beautifully presented, particularly in respect of its roadside boundary wall and roadside area to the boundary wall. This is the standard that should be achieved in this respect.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

A number of old gates are worth keeping and should be refurbished. The old stone buildings and bridges and walls are a handsome feature of the village. The older nameplate on the Tarmonbarry entrance should be refurbished. Both the Richmond Bar and the Conlon Bar and Lounge look well. The telephone kiosk is being well maintained. Consider revealing more of the stone wall leading from the church towards the bridge. There are some fine old metal gates to fields etc. which are worth keeping and should be refurbished. There are some fine stretches of stone walls along the Killashee road also and more could be done to feature these. The old nameplate on the Killashee road could be refurbished also. The namestone on the N5 needs to be repaired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clondra is a beautiful village with many fine amenity features. Care should be taken in its future developments.