

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONES**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	35
The Built Environment	40	23	20
Landscaping	40	25	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	13
Litter Control	40	13	15
Tidiness	20	7	8
Residential Areas	30	17	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	5	6
TOTAL MARK	300	156	156

Clones, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your observations that you are working closely with the regeneration committee sums up your challenge. It is extremely difficult for you as a Tidy Towns Committee to take on board all the many aspects that are required to score better in this competition. In improving your built environment it is now essential that you take up some of the serious issues in relation to back streets, dereliction, approach roads, indifference and generally come more to grips with the segmented elements of the competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As noted above your dereliction problems are generally being overcome in the Diamond area with good results and this year you are to be congratulated. It is now important that the same energy is brought to bear on the urban areas of the town, for instance, the public building opposite the fire station on the Scotstown Road urgently needs improvement. L.C. Plastics could take an excellent lesson from AIBP. The latter has maintained its grounds very well and has beautifully planted gardens at its office and generally in spite of being a huge industrial complex presents itself much better. The Health Board are to be congratulated on the maintenance of the flower beds and building of the Health Centre. The McArdle Brothers site remains an absolute eyesore but congratulations to Thomas The Tank Engine at the Take Away. What a beautiful picture!

LANDSCAPING

New work at the Canal Stores was noted, although not fully planted on adjudication day. The bedding plants were extremely good at McGuigan Park in contrast to the badly maintained lawns behind the fence.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Congratulations on your nature and bike trail signposted so well throughout the town area. Also noted were the beautiful children's play areas at the Canal Store and in the two housing estates. Perhaps some of the residence associations would take on the extension of these play areas into some sort of small wildlife trail for children, whereby they might discover the beautiful nature that is all around them.

LITTER CONTROL

Frankly this was appalling on the day of adjudication. The Diamond itself was littered as were all of the streets and residential areas of the town. Also the verges on the approach roads had been newly cut revealing vast amounts of litter left from the winter time and not yet dealt with. The litter was a really serious problem.

TIDINESS

It is very difficult to achieve tidiness when litter is so out of control. In addition to weeds on the verges of the approach roads the town signs both internally and on the approach roads all need refurbishment and replacement. The car park at Herriott Hall was particularly bad and the derelict factories on the approach roads all require dealing with. On the other hand trees are maturing beautifully on a farmyard on the Newbliss Road and filling in a hedge that was flowering magnificently on the day of adjudication.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The terrace close to the Bluebell Garden Centre was noted as were the new houses at the Gospel Hall, in both cases the properties were very well maintained and congratulations to the residents. The residences of Sunbeam Terrace were also very attractively presented in many cases especially the beautiful mix and match of colours on the first terrace as one comes into the estate. Unfortunately bad railings in many areas of the estate combined with litter detracted from this excellent impression.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As noted in last year's adjudication the famine graveyard road really requires surfacing and on the day the adjudicator was confused as to the exact location since the second sign was missing when one went in the lane. Almost all of the junctions on the approach roads to the town were very badly maintained giving a bad impression in spite of planting in front of same. As already noted many infill sites in the back streets require cleaning up and tidying if success is to be got from this competition.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your adjudicator last visited Clones while the Butcher Boy was being filmed. During that summer no flowering baskets were in evidence and all of your problems were to be seen at their worst. Perhaps this adjudication is best typified by the fact that under the lamp standards from which there were beautiful hanging baskets on the Diamond weeds grew profusely. Clones, as remarked in the opening comments, has made significant inroads into its dereliction but can no longer rely on flowering baskets and beautiful

horse carts filled with flowers to convey an impression of itself. You will have to get to grips with some of the more serious issues noted in this adjudication. That said ... keep up the good work. You have done a great deal under very difficult circumstances in the last years and can achieve much more.