

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLOGHAN**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	22	20
Landscaping	40	30	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	22	24
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	182	170

Cloghan, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed application and outline of your plan. Cloghan's demographics make interesting reading and are a real challenge to the community. We wish you well in your activities to revitalise the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Buildings are generally well presented, however the forecourt and curtilage area of the Parochial Hall could receive some attention. Whilst the town square itself looks well, especially its newly landscaped park, the traffic islands and roundabout do nothing to enhance this core area and it is hoped that these will be refurbished and landscaped within the next few years. The school itself has been recently painted and looks well, its boundary wall now needs the same attention. The vacant property beside the Health Centre has been recently whitewashed and looks well. The church is a handsome building and the grotto in its carpark to the rear is a nice touch. The rusted corrugated roofs to an outbuilding which can be seen from the church carpark should be treated or planted with a climbing plant. Planting could be extended to all walls which can be viewed from the church and its carpark. A rusted corrugated roof to an outbuilding located at the Banaher/Birr road junction needs treatment. The village is a successful combination of single and two storey buildings, many of which retain their traditional features whilst the majority of buildings are well presented some are in need of attention or refurbishment. It is good to note the redevelopment of derelict sites in the village centre. Hopefully, the core of the village will soon be developed to the highest of standards in terms of its buildings to complement its landscaped areas. It is hoped that both the Lynch premises and the period residence in the village centre will retain their traditional features upon refurbishment.

LANDSCAPING

The Killnourney cemetery is an attractive feature. Landscaping could be extended around the entire perimeter of the carpark here and its roadside boundary wall should be reinstated. Flower displays along the footpath at the top of the Shannonbridge road are colourful and young trees here are maturing well. The town square is beautiful and is being considered for the landscaping award.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Congratulations on your ambitious and achievable wildlife

plan. As you correctly state, this is a long term project that will continue to grow, work achieved to date is admirable. You are developing a very important heritage for future generations and, of course, promoting an awareness of wildlife and the value of wildlife to the community. Your wildlife project should be signposted from the village centre.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was not quite as strong as it should be especially on green areas. It was also weak on one green area of the residential development on the Tullamore Road. Your litter management strategy may have to be reviewed to strengthen the offending area.

TIDINESS

Some derelict outbuildings inside the nameplate on the northern approach road are a problem under this heading together with the derelict building at the parochial hall. Have you considered planting fast growing climbing plants to walls of derelict properties. This will soften the adverse visual impact of these properties. Russian Vine grows quickly, about twenty feet a year, and flowers throughout most of the summer. The untidy commercial premises with tyres in the yard at the top of the Tullamore road should be screened from public view, this can be achieved with good quality solid timber gates or with landscaping. The derelict site located across from the school is an eyesore. If it is not due for development in the near future, it should be enclosed by hedgerow or stone wall with trees planted behind. The wall adjoining the derelict whitewashed property should be whitewashed or planted with a fast growing climbing plant.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Single storey dwellings marking the entrance to the village from the Tullamore road are attractive and green areas in the residential development further in are being well maintained. The residential development on the square looks extremely well and no doubt residential units being developed behind this will add to the social and built environment of Cloghan. It is good to note new residential units being built in the centre of the village rather than on approach roads. Residential properties along the Shannonbridge road are nicely painted together with their boundary walls and footpaths are of good quality. Many boundary walls in the residential development near the top of the Tullamore Road are weatherstained and badly in need of attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads to Cloghan had not been recently cut on adjudication day and so featured a fine display of wildflowers and grasses. The old 'Raffertys' sign on the Athlone road

could be removed. The area in front of the nameplate on the Tullamore road looks bad. The building material here should be removed and the small area landscaped to mark the entrance to the village. Potholes to the roadside edge at the unsightly commercial premises at the top of the Tullamore road should be eliminated. The roadside edge near the square also needs to be resurfaced. Extensive stretches of stone wall along the Belmont road should be revealed by cutting back some of the growth in spring (but no later than April 18th to protect wildlife).

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Cloghan is quite favourable with its approach roads lined with attractive displays of wildflower and flowering hedgerow and its beautifully landscaped core. We anticipate that future developments will complement the existing character of the village.