

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CLONROCHE**  
County : **WEXFORD**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	22
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	30	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	29	26
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>170</b>

## **Clonroche, County Wexford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Following its welcome return to the competition last year, this year Clonroche has made dramatic strides in projecting itself as a pleasant and worthwhile stopping-place on the busy route from Enniscorthy to New Ross. There are indications of widespread community involvement, from enhanced litter management to your success in creating the Millennium Park. This is a very tangible and significant manifestation of collective, community support and involvement.

Because of its situation, on a busy roadway, it is highly desirable to create a clear-cut division between the surrounding, rural area and the village itself. On the Enniscorthy side, this is provided by the positioning of the speed limit signs, the town nameplate and the manner in which the road verge widens at the Glanbia plant. A similar clear-cut division should be worked towards at the New Ross entrance.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The centre does not have an obvious focal point but is equipped with a number of attractive houses and a significantly sized and located mercantile premises. Tectors House and Clocheán are both visually important, as is the sizeable Wexford Trading Centre which features pleasant trees in its cobblelock foreground. The sizeable Community Centre is very well set off by the new Millennium Park opposite.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Pride of place must go to the delightful and spectacularly successful Millennium Park. In terms of layout, design, selection of plants and even the pagoda-like gateway it is a triumph. The seating, the meandering pathway, the very well presented grass and the wide selection of shrubs all contribute to a delightful and worthwhile millennium project. The timber planter at the Recycle for Life installation was appropriate, but would benefit from even more full planting. Throughout the centre hedgerows were neat and well presented, with substantial numbers of trees contributing to an overall greening of the village.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The school grounds, the new Millennium Park and the Canon Murphy housing estate offer ample opportunities for the development of suitable wildlife habitats. This element of tidy towns activity can best be advanced by seeking the

services of a local enthusiast or by speaking with the Wildlife Ranger attached to Dúchas – The Heritage Service. A programme of activities designed to heighten awareness and appreciation of birds and wildlife generally has been found to be materially beneficial in a social context also.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter management continues at a high order and all are applauded for the standard achieved. The school grounds were free of litter while sensible sized and designed litterbins were much in evidence in the Millennium Park. Litterbins were also noted in the Post Office area. Some litter was observed along the street in some locations, so continued vigilance is called for.

## **TIDINESS**

Because of the volume of through traffic and the tendency to park cars in a fairly random fashion, it is perhaps more difficult to project a sense of order and neatness. Some spoil has been allowed to accumulate between the road and pavement although generally roads were well swept. The Recycle for Life installation opposite the Community Centre seemed well used and respected. A number of tired – and in some cases obsolete – plastic signs need attention. Their owners should be encouraged to upgrade or remove as appropriate. The large premises of Sean Flood would benefit from a repainting of the gates and a general tidy-up of the frontage facing the road.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Individual houses, in many cases, featured delightful gardens where a high standard was achieved. Canon Murphy Park was very well presented with individual houses achieving a very high standard. The nameplate was well presented and work was in progress on the grassed areas on the day of adjudication. A large container seemed to be very much out of position and a more appropriate site for it might be found. More robust and sizeable shrubs might be considered more appropriate for the foreground to the estate. Planters which are small and sparsely filled are best avoided in these locations and whenever possible, ground planting is to be preferred.

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

Roads generally were well presented, recently swept and neat. At times there was not a clear division between the road as such and the foreground of commercial premises, which in some cases, contributed to an absence of a sense of order. Moving towards New Ross, behind the pleasant tree planting a small number of horizontal concrete railings need replacement. In the absence of speedy replacement,

there is an accelerating tendency for others to suffer a similar fate.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Clonroche, in only its second year in the competition, has made dramatic and worthwhile strides. Some individual difficulties remain, but with a continuation of the same level of community involvement and co-operation the centre can continue to thrive and improve, to the overall betterment of its citizens.