

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONEGAL**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	39
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	26
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	250	241

Clonegal, Co Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application form and folder which was presented to the highest standard. It included wonderful photographs, maps and a logbook of the work completed to date. When reading through this document and looking at the photographs it does confirm the tremendous amount of work which has been done since 1994 in the village. You have a very effective strategy and have tackled very difficult black spots over the years. It is good to see that you continue to work with the Local Authority and that you also entered the Carlow Floral Pride competition. It is also great to see there is an increasing involvement of every member of your community which helps enormously to make the strides which you have done. You have an area of which you are rightly proud of.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Committee has a great understanding and respect for your village's character, its streets and buildings throughout. You have also taken into consideration the characteristics of your place. The cemetery is presented to a very high standard, and the creepers are doing well and there is a great variety. The school is maintained in pristine condition and the boundary walls are immaculate. The new diner restaurant looks good and had particularly colourful and cheerful looking signage. The church and its car park continue to be maintained in perfect condition. I note your concerns and difficulties with the old church but the treatment done to the windows and a clean-up have improved its appearance. The new low granite walls built at the community centre really look well and set off the whole area. Some of the commercial properties still continue to have advertising signs which are not appropriate for the buildings. Signage should reflect the heritage of the building. The pig house is a delightful feature which is a wonderful for children. The weavers cottages are a wonderful heritage attraction and it is tremendous to see that various activities take place in them which helps to make people aware of the culture and tradition of the area. The pubs in the village continue to present their properties in a very good light. It is a pity that those who have properties which detract from the overall appearance of the village do not come on board to assist with the overall presentation of the village. Perhaps the present timing is not right for them and in due course will make their contribution.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping aspect throughout is delightful. Great care and attention has been taken with each area with wonderful mixes of shrubs, trees and colour used to stunning effect.

The area by the river is a delight and the cart filled with plants is a lovely creation. Planting done at the sign is excellent. The number of trees, shrubs and roses planted throughout since 1995 is staggering. The planting done at the name stone at St Bridget's Church, the rockery opposite the park and the overall maintenance on the approach roads - all looked well. The only area which will need attention, is the space beside the graveyard which has palm trees – one tree was dead and the sprayed weeds needed to be removed (School Playing Field).

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have given great attention to wild life in all its forms. Many do enhance the appearance of the landscape. The amount of wild life in a village depends partly on the way it is maintained and on the diversity of shrubs and trees present. The wild flowers planted in the Methodist Church grounds were coming into bloom and should be of great interest to adults and children alike. Great care has been taken with the river area, the bridge and the Oak Tree to increase and enhance the wild life aspect of your village. The colony of owls and bats are a rare species to have in your village and long may they remain there. Also all the additional planting done throughout the village will also continue to be vital habitats for many of the native wild plants, animals and birds.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter plan which you have in place is working very well and was practically litter free on adjudication day. Well done to all concerned. This is a very important of the competition and continuous monitoring is essential. A few small items were noted on the Tullow Road.

TIDINESS

Clonegal was presented overall in a neat and tidy manner. The control of weeds at the base of walls and kerbs was very good throughout. The recycling facility is in a suitable location and does help to keep the area tidy. This reflects very well on the regard, that the residents have for their environment and the place in which they live.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The very good standard of the residential areas throughout the village reflects the pride of the residents in presenting their properties in the best light which contributes to the overall appearance and effect. The residential area on the Tullow Road is beautifully maintained and well done to all concerned. Boundary walls need attention and perhaps assistance could be given where needed by the committee. The Valley View bank is a wonderful feature and does enhance the houses behind. St Bridget's Terrace again continues to look very well with the exception of some boundary walls which need attention. It will be interesting to see the agreed plans for the Green being developed. No

doubt it will be to the high standard, which all other developments throughout have achieved. The presentation of individual property owner's gardens and exterior continue to be of a very high standard. There are very few residents at this stage who do not make some effort to carry out improvements to their properties.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

A great deal of hard work has gone in to the approach roads at Clonegal. The signs throughout are maintained in very good condition and that includes the main signs. A few of the poles are showing signs of rust and do need to be treated. I know that you have seven approach roads to maintain which, as you rightly say, is a very big task for your committee. In addition to that you have to deal with two Local Authorities. Incredible hard work has been done to bring the roads to their present standard. Obviously, it results in huge voluntary effort by the committee, residents and Local Authorities staff. The landscaping of these roads is a sheer delight.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Exceptional work has been done throughout the village and there is a wonderful evenness in the presentation. Your plans for the next three years continue to be equally ambitious. You have made huge strides in this competition since 1995. You have already tasted success in Carlow's Floral Pride competition, representing Ireland in the Nations in Bloom competition in the US in December and also you got a Green Town award. You are making steady progress in the competition and with the focus on attention to detail for the next few years, it should eventually bring results. Congratulations and well done to the residents of Clonegal for their exceptional hard work in making their village look like it is.

SECOND ROUND 28/7/01

Clonegal is always a pleasure to visit for work or recreation and this year's adjudication was no exception. Congratulations on a substantial increase in marks which reflects the significant works of the committee and the community in general. Your 'Route Finder' panel and 'Slí na Sláinte' initiatives is especially admired given the wonderful setting of Clonegal. The flags in the small park are a nice touch as are the sunflowers in the main street. Mature trees are being well maintained and flower displays including sporadic outbreaks of Montebretia were enjoyed. The undeveloped site with the old cars, etc. is being well screened.