

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONASLEE**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-08-2001

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2001 | Mark Awarded 2000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 41 | 41 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 31 | 31 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 24 | 21 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 30 | 31 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 16 | 16 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 238 | 235 |

Clonaslee, Co. Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Clonaslee is welcome to this year's Tidy Towns Competition. The village looked really well on adjudication day and the many landscaped areas are a credit to those responsible. Well done on the signage in the village for Brittas Wood and Brittas lake. Clonaslee is blessed with natural amenities, featuring two rivers in the village itself and within walking distance of the lake. The Brittas Woods development and Nature Trail is also a valuable asset and, of course, the village is situated very close to the Slieve Bloom National Park.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village has a fine stock of single and two storey buildings, some with traditional features, which are complemented by more modern buildings also. Most are well presented. No doubt the committee is aware of those that are in need of painting. Well done on the completion of the new Secondary School. The curtilage area of the property located beside the Garda station looks large and bare and could be softened with a little planting or other feature. This would appear to be the Parochial Hall from your map. Moran's shop and adjacent garage and walls could be re-whitewashed to freshen its appearance. Well done on the completion of the new school, it looks well. The walls of the old national school could be repainted to freshen. There are very few dated plastic neon signs and no doubt the remaining ones will disappear in the not too distant future. The presentation of the church on the Tullamore road is impeccable. The streetscape is attractive with the Heritage Centre (old Protestant Church) being an important focal point and complementing the streetscape of the village.

LANDSCAPING

Well done on the placement of trees and the planting of new trees. Well done also on the planting of green areas. The trees along the main street are nicely presented and are maturing well. Your landscaping programme could incorporate the graveyard. Some Cypress trees have been noted here, however some broad leaf trees could also be planted. Newly turned earth at the Community Centre suggest that landscaping is being extended to this area. Existing trees here look well. There seems to be a fair few good size rocks scattered about the bridge which might be removed. The landscaping at the Heritage Centre continues to impress and the public seating here are welcome features. New trees planted out the Tullamore road are noted and should make a significant contribution to the riverside here as they mature. Landscaped areas at both entrances to the village, particularly at the Birr

entrance are quite magnificent.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Congratulations on the cleaning and redevelopment, i.e. replanting and restocking of the lake under this heading. We look forward to the appearance of sub aqua flowers. No doubt the lake will be a tourist attraction as is envisaged by the committee. The entrance to Brittas Wood and its associated wildlife trail is inviting in its presentation. Are there picnic areas planned for the environs of the lake? These might be a useful addition.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was excellent on adjudication with one minor exception out towards the Kinnity Road. However this was not a big problem. The newer litter bins look well but some of the older ones could be either refurbished or removed altogether. Grass cuttings should be removed immediately or swept into a pile. Roadside edges out the Mountmellick road looked somewhat untidy with the spread of discoloured grass cuttings.

TIDINESS

Well done on the levelling and clean up of the old piggery site. Some weeding of kerbs out the Mountmellick road is necessary.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It was a pleasure to note the construction of new town houses built on the site of the old store near the vocational school. Other new residential properties have been finished well also and complement the existing residential properties of the town. Congratulations under this heading for the acquisition of the millennium stone and its siting. Some roadside boundary walls to residential properties out the Birr road need attention. The landscaping of the soft area in Slieve Bloom Park will give a finishing touch to this attractive small residential development. Some vacant cottages near the Kitchen and Bedroom Centre at the Birr end of the village together with a two-storey house need refurbishment.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The tarmacadamed area out the Birr road is being beautifully maintained, lined as it is by neat grass margins. The timber 'Fáilte' signs look exceptionally well. Some stretches of footpath at the Birr end of the town are in need of refurbishment. Street furniture looks well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A good overall impression with an accompanying increase in marks.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/01)

The project providing access to the Brittas lakeside is excellent, this together with the Brittas woods walk form a great amenity for the area. Plantings and presentation around the area of the Heritage centre looked very well on the day of second adjudication. The new school grounds have not been landscaped as yet which is a pity as the new school term is approaching. The stone wall to the roadside of this site is attractive. Past tree plantings are now showing good reward. Litter by the bench at the riverside in the Brittas wood was most unsightly.