

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLOUGH**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	24	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	30	37
Tidiness	20	14	16
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	193	197

Clough, Co. Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Clough is a pleasant village within a rural hinterland which offers services to a wider community. It is also an important residential centre in its own right. You have not sent in any details of your planned work programme covering the next three to five years. This is important, it is difficult to progress in the competition without a planned work programme. Do send these in for next year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both Mahons Grocery and the Phoenix Inn are beautifully presented and no doubt they are responsible for the landscaping of the green area opposite and of their adjoining carpark, well done! Some weatherstaining to the roadside façade of the handball alley was noted. The Post Office looks well but adjoining walls need some upgrading, however, the landscaping at these walls was very much admired. Whilst the shopfront itself looks well the rest of the building and its gable walls need some cleaning and / or painting. The nearby thatched cottages look well. Perhaps the whitewashing could be extended to the small stone utility building adjoining. The new school and its grounds were very much admired and young trees here are establishing themselves well.

LANDSCAPING

The growth around the boles of trees lining the path to the church should be removed as it spoils an otherwise magnificent effect. Focus your efforts on native trees and shrubs for year round effect.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Stretches of hedgerow, grass verges, streams present many wonderful opportunities for projects to promote an awareness and appreciation of wildlife. A variety of habitats are presented by these natural features.

LITTER CONTROL

Whilst litter control was quite good in the village, there was evidence of litter in the small stream near Mahons Grocery and Phoenix Inn. Submit details of your litter management plan next year.

TIDINESS

Mounds of rubble were noted here and there, particularly near the remains of a derelict building, it is anticipated that this is due for clearance soon. Weed growth along some stretches of kerb are prevalent and should be removed, particularly those that have been sprayed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Clough is primarily a residential settlement and therefore residential properties should be presented to the highest standard, most are well presented but quite a few could be improved regarding the presentation of their boundary walls and roadside areas to boundary walls. In many cases the latter are rough in appearance and weedy, they should either be tarmacadamed or perhaps, grassed or landscaped. It is anticipated that the new residential development will make a contribution to the social and cultural life of the village and bring more hands on board for the Tidy Towns Committee. The 'Chatsworth' development looks well, however the green area around the namestone needs some treatment. An adjacent residential property needs some treatment to its roadside boundary which was very weedy. Another well presented residential development is 'Cois na Habhainn'. A green verge here along the boundary wall leading to the sports grounds should be landscaped. Well done on the construction of new stone walls and fencing. 'Colliery Close' is beautifully presented and the landscaped area marking its entrance is impressive both in its design and maintenance. Flower displays in the two properties in the environs of the church are in full bloom, well done.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All verges of approach roads and the long green verge in the village centre were overgrown, however, the colour and diversity of wildflowers here was quite impressive. A word of caution, road signs such as speed limit signs and nameplates should not be hidden by the long growth as this is dangerous. The wirescape in the village centre is visually obtrusive and we wish you well in your efforts to have this ducted in the future.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clough is beautifully presented and we look forward to many repeat visits.