

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CLONES**  
County : **MONAGHAN**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	33
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	24	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	14	13
Tidiness	20	10	7
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>156</b>

## **Clones, County Monaghan**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The detailed plan of work set out for the next three years with your application is very positive and your setting out section/area by area pinpoints exactly the needs of the town. This can be monitored year by year and adjusted according to progress. Once sights are set on objectives progress will follow. Your committee's work of lobbying is so important as some work is out of your hands in many cases and constant pressure on the relevant bodies is all important. It is good that you have taken the material of past adjudication reports with such good will and that the contents of the Anne O' Leary report are being incorporated.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Diamond has improved and this represents a good level of progress. Work is still in progress on some building. The "random" parking on the Diamond was very evident at adjudication where some cars were even blocked in. The Clones festival created a particular problem for traffic but all the pressures created by such a festival are well known to Clones and schemes to manage such situations can be anticipated. It would be very attractive if large areas of the Diamond were totally carparking free allowing for greater pedestrian use. The Celtic Cross area at least could be totally free of traffic at all times. The Banks and the Library, along with the well painted business premises look very well on the Diamond. The round tower is a lovely feature, access is difficult and this is not being availed of its full potential. There continues to be a significant level of dereliction and need for building refurbishment and repair but the plan addresses this and expectations can be high now for the coming years.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Container planting at the Diamond is attractive and your plans for tree planting are welcome. The Diamond could certainly benefit from some large specimen trees in protected surrounds. Your plans for wall plants at Analore and McCurtain streets are good. On a broader aspect - there is a need for a serious tree planting campaign throughout the surrounds and anywhere there is an opportunity. This greening effect would be very beneficial and could soften the entire aspect of Clones. Car parks for instance should always include some provision for tree planting. This can either be at the periphery or as islands between carparking blocks. The McGuigan park is in serious need of attention and seems to have been neglected somewhat. The open spaces of housing estates offer opportunities for developments and such can dramatically change the aspect of a housing estate. The

limes trees at the children's play area on Cara Street show how important trees can be in a town.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your lobbying efforts with the U.D.C for a wild life park are laudable as this is the only way you will achieve results. The cycle nature trail is a positive asset. Local resident associations may have an opportunity to adopt small areas as nature reserve areas which could be a helpful move. Cemeteries are often a good source of wild life and can be utilised well.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The Clones festival presented particular litter problems. Part of litter management is to anticipate situations where litter may be problematic. It is unwise to accept that because a festival or match is on that litter control can be abandoned. Special contingency plans can be put in operation just as for traffic. Some of the littered sites observed appeared to predate the festival. Litter is a national problem and solutions are difficult. An approach to litter control does not appear as a priority on your plans.

### **TIDINESS**

The positive approach in your plan to control paving and kerbside weeds will help in this regard . The derelict sites that will be dealt with will improve this aspect greatly. The clean up campaigns mentioned in your application form will also be helpful.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Residential housing estates depend on three factors for their appearance. Firstly the manner in which the developers have left the site. It is important to keep a watchful eye on the finish left by developers and to ensure that the landscape plans from the planning are implemented fully and that there is good finish. Secondly, the maintenance from the public authorities of open greens, estates entrances and tree planting. Thirdly, the care and attention that individuals take with their own homes and gardens, painting of house walls and in general, the good presentation of their homes. Competitions to encourage care of homes and gardens are useful as well as contacts with residence associations. There are many fine individual houses around Clones which contributive to the overall appearance of the town.

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

Traffic volumes are placing much pressure on the roads and streets. Some comments have already been made about carparking above. Frequently when carparks and back areas are opened up, the sight of backs of buildings become apparent which were not on view before. These sights are often not the most attractive and this is a problem many towns in Ireland have faced. This also brings

opportunities for business developments in back areas and can have a regenerating effect. Approach roads are attractive with good natural vegetation in the hedgerows.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Clones is an interesting town in which a great amount of renewal is taking place but more time is need to overcome some of the challenges. The planned approach and determination of the tidy towns committee is noted and with a positive attitude much will be achieved. The Diamond forms such an important area of the town being so extensive and with so many fine buildings.