

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONMELLON**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	34
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	16
Litter Control	40	27	28
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	203

Clonmellon, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Clonmellon, at first glance, strikes as a small, tranquil, country village. It is the type of village that could be greatly enhanced by some minor, but effective changes. Structurally, the main street is long and wide with plenty of parking space, but it lacks colour and a sense of character. The introduction of hanging baskets along the main street and more floral displays along the paths would greatly improve its appearance. The trees are maturing nicely and perhaps more should be planted to dress the streetscape. In the long term, home owners and businesses located on the main street should be encouraged to paint their facades with brighter, more refreshing colours.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the Credit Union and Post Office look very attractive with well maintained, traditional, stone fronts. The Old Market Square has lovely flower displays out front, but unfortunately the square itself is very run down and is in need of a facelift. The church appears to be very well cared for, as does the graveyard with its well cut grass and hedgerow. Further down the street towards Kilallon, Friery's Garage is well kept and the flower pots between the pumps are a nice touch. A resurfacing of the forecourt might be considered for the future. Clonmellon House next door is somewhat of an eyesore, such is its state of disrepair. The Corner House pub on the opposite corner needs to be repainted. However, the walled flower bed in the middle of the road is very attractive.

LANDSCAPING

The entrance road from Kells is very pretty with its lines of trees, cut grass verges and beautiful flower beds on each side. Unfortunately one of the flower beds has been let go a little and is quite overgrown. The picnic area near Lodge House has lots of potential and possibly could be renovated for next year. The grass needs to be further cut back and the weeds removed from the stream. It is a shame that the stream and its beautiful stone tunnel are so hidden in the overgrowth. This is an ideal area for planting new flower beds and installing another picnic bench. It could be made into a really pretty and accessible amenity for use by all the community.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

No reference has been made to wildlife or natural amenities in your application. You might consider undertaking a survey of the natural plant and animal life within the locality, in conjunction with the school.

LITTER CONTROL

Although there are plenty of clean, empty rubbish bins, litter is somewhat of a problem. Litter is evident on the village footpaths and particularly along the hedgerows on the road to Kilallon. A small benched picnic area next to Friery's Garage was very badly littered, despite the presence of a bin. However the grass is well kept and

the trees enhance this area. Some litter was also noticeable in the school yard.

TIDINESS

The main problem area regarding tidiness is weed growth along pavements and where the kerb butts the road. There is a lot of weed growth in particular, surrounding the trees on the main street. This really should be dealt with. There is an untidy area at the entrance to the Shantobar housing estate, where barrels and cones have been left. The village sign coming in from the Delvin side is dirty/defaced and the grass verge needs to be cut back. However, both the village signs approaching from Kilskyre and Kells are clear and beautifully decorated with flower beds.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing standards are quite mixed. Some dereliction is evident while other houses appear to be regularly painted and kept very neat and tidy. The house beside the Old Market square deserves special mention for its window boxes, as does the house opposite the Credit Union which is clearly well maintained and the ivy and flower displays make it extremely attractive. The gardens of the new houses along the Kilskyre road are beginning to settle in nicely. Unfortunately, the kerb along the Kilskyre road is weedy and overgrown and also an area of grass within the housing estate opposite "The Brugh" has not been maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Nearly all road signs are clear, clean and well laid out. The approach road from Mullingar needs resurfacing, as do the sides of the main street. Overall, the roads are in quite good condition.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clonmellon is a village that could be made very attractive through greater community involvement. It would greatly benefit from some flowers on the street and some attention to needed work. Perhaps an annual listing of tasks to be addressed might generate higher levels of interest.