

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	26
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	16
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	191	193

Clough, County Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry to this year's Tidy Town's Competition. It is nice to see that you have involved the school students as they can play an important role in maintaining a Tidy Village. A simple 3 to 5 year plan of what you would like to achieve for your village is highly recommended so that your progress can be recognised and give a perspective on how you would like your village to develop. Also we would like to see some activity in the wildlife and natural amenities area.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The church looks very well with pots of flowers leading up to the entrance. The lawns are neat and tidy with well kept railings. The school is nicely presented with well maintained lawns and colourful plants along entrance path. Just in front is a fine display of purple flowering. Freshly painted, its yellow and brown colour scheme looks well. There is hedging along the school wall and there are litter bins. Oil tank storage in the school is well camouflaged with murals. The Hall looks well, although there is a little weed in the small yard which fronts to the road. The graveyard looks well. Mary's Bar is attractive with its stone gable being colonised by an ivy creeper. The car park is well maintained with a nice planter of flowers growing up the stone wall. The Post Office is nicely presented and the gardens beside and behind are excellent. The house beside church looks well with its ivy clad front garden wall. There has been considerable effort on the part of house owners to present well and to extend to public areas. The phone box could do with repainting.

LANDSCAPING

A combination of fine hedging, well maintained walls, fencing, and extended private gardens connect the various elements of the village. There is a magnificent garden opposite Mary's Pub with two tubs of flowers at front. On the right hand side of the Abo Creamery Road is a nice selection of old trees. The verge in this area could be better trimmed, and the planters better maintained. New timber fencing is on the house opposite the post office.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Clough has a wonderful natural environment rich in trees, wild flowers, and hedges to support a wide ranging wildlife habitat. You really should consider developing a wildlife garden as part of your Tidy Town activity.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter bin in front of ESB transformer was full, but generally, litter control was quite

good.

TIDINESS

Weed spraying had taken place and there was some evidence of dead weed in kerbs of path between the Post Office and the Church. The ESB transformer station has a lot of weed at its front. There is no serious wirescape evident. The pump on the Abo Creamery Road is in a bad state. Its top is missing, wood is deteriorating, and the hanging basket is disintegrating.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The modern two storey house opposite the school looks well and its garden is nicely maintained. The house to left of the church is fine and the garden displays a fine old copper beech. The little cottage at the Abo Cheese Co. turn is in a bad state of repair. The windows need replacing and corrugated roof is not in keeping with the residential premises.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach from the Borris road has a nice little signpost to introduce the village at an attractive wall and young tree plantation to the left, verge to the right could be cut. The village roadways and church to post office footpath are in good order. The approach to the village from the church side has a large farm with walls well screened with plants. Hedging into village on both sides are well clipped and the entrance through mature tree canopies is attractive.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clough is a small village with excellent potential. It has a selection of very fine private gardens and the harnessing of this resource will do much to improve the presentation of the village.