

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	14	14
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>162</b>

## Clones, County Monaghan

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your informative application form and map. A copy of your 3 year plan would have also been helpful to set the scene for adjudication. However it is clear that the committee have achievable and focused objectives which are a good tool towards an effective outcome. Your co-operation with relevant local bodies is commendable and essential for progress in your plans.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Clones has many unique features and buildings that contribute to the town. The Diamond is the focal centre of the town and I reiterate last year's adjudicator's comments re: clearing the unique and beautiful High Cross area of parked cars. Many premises looked very well maintained and presented and the regeneration is obvious and good luck with your plans in this area. However some premises still need attention, often a cosmetic paint job and tidy can be effective as a short term measure. The Credit Union and its fine car park, Bank of Ireland and adjoining premises look well many retaining their original sash windows and fantail light features. St Tiernach's cemetery looked tidy but was inaccessible and the old school opposite is also worth some attention. The canal store and the Masonic Lodge with its lovely gate both looked well, as did the Abbey, though the grass could have been tidied. Largy College shows how trees can enhance a functional building. It would be good to see an integrated development of the old butter market.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Diamond area looks well with some nice tubs furnishing, posts and lamps. Some new trees were noted close to the A.I.B.P. warehouse. Some colourful perennial planting would look well in the Children's playground. Mc Guigan Park seems to have been abandoned though some colourful beds were noted outside it. The Diamond and other areas should be considered for further judicious tree planting that will both soften and enhance the town and leave a legacy for others to enjoy. Perhaps a competition to encourage flower features in the town's business premises could be considered. A lovely touch of colour from a small garden at a derelict site caught the eye on Fermanagh St., as did the mural at the end of this street. The benches at the butter market need to be repainted. My return visit to the impressive famine memorial and its abundant rabbits was worthwhile however the area needs to be weeded.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The committee have an important role in preserving and suitably enhancing the natural environment within the town. The parks, play areas, school grounds are all possible locations for a project under this heading. Open green areas, hedgerows, trees and the

riverbank offer additional opportunities in this area. Get appropriate help and advice from local experts and try and involve the school children in your plans.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Your litter awareness scheme, voluntary clean ups and work with the U.D.C. are all factors that contribute to this very important area of the competition. A schools awareness \ competition programme could also be considered. Your bins were well maintained and plentiful, though there are none in the children' s playground where some litter was evident. There was litter on Fermanagh Street, Supervalu Car Park and particularly in the 98 street car park, with abandoned pallets and rubbish gathering at the recycle bins. There was sporadic litter throughout the town perhaps this was related to my adjudication time-a Sunday evening. The committee and community must remain vigilant in this very important area.

## **TIDINESS**

Dereliction is a challenge faced imaginatively by many towns throughout the country. Open areas, back areas and side alleys should be appropriately screened. An alley to the side of the fine Church of Ireland and Clones tractors are examples of where screening gates or hedges could be effective. The screening fence and trees in the area opposite KR tyres is a good example of what could be done. Some weed control is needed in the Diamond area and premises like the Monaghan Library building should consider removing the weeds from the roofs and gutters. Your clean up and Public Awareness campaign are a positive step in this area.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Liasing with your local residents association is an excellent pro-active project for the committee, particularly the new developments. Many individual homes looked well throughout the town. The approach roads also looked well with some lovely flower features, hedges gardens and well-maintained premises and boundaries. Well done to the individuals concerned for their hard work. The lovely wrought iron work in the railings and gates of so many varied houses throughout the town caught the eye. However some individual premises need some attention. Cherry Tree Park looked well with its new playground and railings and tidy grass areas. O'Neill Park with its beautiful pump and some well presented colourful homes needs its benches repainted and some pot holes need to be fixed here also.

## **ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Some of the approach roads have some tidy verges, nicely faced hedges and good footpaths and roads, but the standard is not consistent on all the approach roads. Some finger post signs in the town the 30MPH signs on R183 to Newbliss need some attention.

## **GENERAL**

The Clones Tidy Towns Committee has realistically assessed the needs of their interesting town and are tackling the regeneration of the town in an inclusive way, optimising local bodies input and generating public awareness and the results are beginning to show. Perseverance, determination and attention to detail will help you progress in your work. Good luck with your future plans.