

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLOGHAN**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	24	22
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	188	184

Cloghan, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

There are welcome signs of rejuvenation in Cloghan. These include new housing developments on the Ferbane/Belmont roads, the renovation of a number of business premises, new stone walls, footpaths and street lights, etc. Cloghan still has many problems to overcome as your Development Plan states and this will take time. However the village is already looking the better for the improvements that have taken place. A planned approach will give the best results. You must also concentrate on the basics e.g. litter control and keeping newly paved areas weed free.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Derelict buildings remain a problem particularly around the square. There are however several hopeful signs that the decline of the village has ceased and redevelopment is taking place. Several business premises have been refurbished and others are in the process of being repainted. There is still a considerable distance to go but Cloghan is already looking the better for what is happening. The flower garden and the grotto look well but you now need to consider painting the Church. The school is satisfactory but the boundary wall also needs painting.

LANDSCAPING

The garden park is a show case for the village with its well planted and weed free flower beds, neatly trimmed grass, clock and imposing water feature. The flower beds at the road junctions in the square are attractive but the standard of presentation of the central roundabout needs improving. A more co-ordinated planting approach would make a difference. The condition and type of road and other signs in and around the square is unsatisfactory. A co-ordinated approach to signage would also make a big difference. The trees especially the row of sycamore trees at the housing estate on the Banagher road are attractive. With the exception of the garden park, grassed areas require more frequent cutting to look their best. The parking area at the G.A.A. grounds is weedy and while the boundary wall is painted the low concrete posts need attention.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Wildlife Heritage Park is a wonderful amenity with its fishing and its magnificent wild fowl and other wildlife habitats. Additional landscaping work is in hand at the entrance and car-parking area and this will further enhance the Park. However more could be done to inform visitors about the Wildlife Park and a display map in the Garden Park or possibly in a wide footpath in the village centre would be helpful.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control needs improvement. On the day of inspection litter was visible in several locations, on the approach roads, gap areas and particularly around the G.A.A. ground.

TIDINESS

The new houses, footpaths, street lights, the garden park etc. are all helping improve the appearance of the village. However there is still a long way to go. Litter, weedy footpath kerbings, derelict buildings and inadequately maintained grass verges are problems that must be tackled before the village can reach a good standard under this heading.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many well kept houses and gardens throughout Cloghan, those on the Shannonbridge Road stand out. The new houses between the Ferbane and Belmont Roads are an important addition to the village. The high stone wall with iron gates on the Ferbane Road is most attractive, however long grass should be cut at the entrance to the houses on the Belmont Road. There are several boundary walls that need painting and a number of weedy entrances and boundary areas were noted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The presentation of the square and roundabout area continues to improve but as already mentioned more needs to be done. The new footpaths and street lights look well and hopefully this restoration programme will continue and other stretches of footpaths will be upgraded. Weedy footpath kerbing especially on the Shannonbridge road is unattractive and more regular sweeping of street gutters would make a big difference. The Ferbane road was the best in this respect.

GENERAL

Progress is being made. A planned approach will yield the best results. Prioritise basics, e.g. litter control and weeding. Don't be discouraged.