

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONEYGOWAN**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	15	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	201	196

Cloneygowan, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Cloneygowan is a small village with a lot going for it. The large and well presented green is a very attractive feature. Most of the buildings are in a satisfactory condition and while there are a few derelict buildings there does not appear to be any insurmountable problems. In recent years the village has steadily improved and this has been reflected in significantly increased marks. It is a pity that you are not able to generate a greater level of support from the community. It is in everyones interest that the village looks its best and it is to be greatly hoped that you can stimulate greater involvement.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the buildings around the square are well kept. The new housing scheme on the Tullamore road is almost complete and the grass is beginning to grow in the landscaped central area. It is unfortunate that there are a number of derelict buildings and it is appreciated that it is difficult for a Tidy Towns Committee to do anything about these buildings in the short term. Dolans and Murphys are well presented. The parking area at Cloneygowan Stores and Post Office needs upgrading. The Health Centre is satisfactory but long grass in the grounds need cutting. Grass also needs to be cut around the hall.

LANDSCAPING

The green is the focal point of the village and is maintained to a high standard with well trimmed grass, an attractive shrubbery and a wooden seat in good condition. The pump is well presented and adds interest to the green. The other green on the Portarlington end of the village is equally well maintained as are its flowerbeds, a shrubbery particularly stands out. Tyres are not suitable for use as flower beds and these should be removed from the grass verges on the Tullamore approach.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The trees in and around the village are important habitats for wild birds. On the day of inspection it was pleasant to hear birds singing in the green area and to observe swallows hawking over the green. In time you might be able to provide additional bird boxes in suitable locations around the village similar to those on the "cul de sac" road.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good and on the day of inspection there was little evidence of litter.

TIDINESS

In spite of the comments that you have little support, the village has a tidy and cared for appearance. This is generated by the well kept green, general absence of litter and well presented houses. Negative aspects are the patchy appearance and maintenance of the Portarlington approach.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses in and around the village are well kept and many have well planted gardens. A number need to paint boundary walls. The derelict buildings have already been referred to.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Tullamore road is satisfactory with tended grass margins. As has already been mentioned the Portarlington approach is much more patchy. Several stretches are well maintained but other margins are weedy. The unfinished footpath leading to the railway bridge does not help the appearance of the approach.

GENERAL

Cloneygowan has reached a good standard and is making progress. Try and involve more people in the community. Don't be discouraged.