

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonegal**

Ref: **277**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **258**

Category: **A**

Date: **29/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	258	255

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the maps which were most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of both Carlow and Wexford County Councils, Fás, LEADER, Carlow Rural Tourism and, of course, your Community the work of which is greatly reflected in the beautiful presentation of the village. The plan at the back of the folder sets out what you propose to do over the next few years and this is an excellent approach. Clonegal has now reached a high mark in the Tidy Towns Competition and further success will be achieved through careful planning for future projects and attention to detail but, and equally important, a high level of maintenance on what you already have achieved. In this connection, and for next year, you might submit one map which shows work which has either been carried out in the current year or is in the process of being carried out so that the adjudicator can have sight of it. You received an in depth report from last years adjudicator. The following therefore is by way of comment on further progress to date and should be read in tandem with that report.

The Built Environment:

As last year your many buildings including the School, Churches, Cemetery, Community Hall, bridge, carved stone features etc were well presented on adjudication and, in this connection, great credit is due to all concerned. The Grotto is very nice and the pumps are a lovely feature. Walls, old and new, are also a feature of the village and obviously great attention is being paid to them. Business

premises throughout the village are being well maintained. Some however need refurbishment and others possibly a coat of paint.

Landscaping:

Landscaping throughout the village is breathtaking. All the features mentioned in last years report have magnified themselves again this year. If special mention were to be made it would have to be The Square and the River View area which are outstanding. Various sculptures throughout the village add greatly to the overall vista and, on an individual level, containerised plantings, hanging baskets, window boxes and flower presentations of all kinds on walls and poles are a delight. Perhaps part of your planning should be to identify other areas where trees and shrubs could be planted particularly those which would give you some colour on an all year round basis. Work carried out at Watch House Village adds greatly to the overall ambience of Clonegal and all concerned are to be congratulated on a wonderful effort.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading are noted. Consider however the possibility of doing a specific project – say with your school children – which might provide simple elements such as feeding tables and nesting boxes for birds and perhaps a wildlife display board near the river showing what birds and animals can be seen locally.

Litter Control:

Clonegal was practically litter free on adjudication day. Your voluntary pickers are obviously doing a great job and great credit is due to all concerned.

Tidiness:

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and reflects greatly the interest which your residents have in their environment. Open storage at Watch House Village, while possibly inevitable, does take away somewhat from the wonderful appearance of that particular area. Perhaps this is a problem which will be solved in time.

Residential Areas:

St. Brigid's Terrace and Valley View Estate are being very well maintained and great credit is due to their residents. Individual houses throughout the village looked lovely and, as well as in the estates, many had lovely gardens in full bloom which were a joy to behold and were a tremendous addition to what landscaping already exists. In a small village this type of individual effort is essential if success is to be achieved in the Competition. Well done to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are very nicely presented and the beautiful landscaping in each case sets a wonderful tone for the rest of the village. Road surfaces are quite good and pathways are being well maintained also. In this respect great credit is due to your Local Authorities.

General Impression:

What a lovely atmosphere prevails in Clonegal Village. It could be used as a showpiece for other centres as to how a living environment should be preserved. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Clonegal again next year to see what further progress has been made. As already mentioned, identify other areas for development, maintain what you have to a high level and further success will undoubtedly come your way.

Second Round Adjudication:

This is a most pleasant village situated in the river valleys of the Slaney and Derry rivers, with the Derry river reaching into the village at one point on High Street. A Committee of twelve is a most commendable figure and can be appreciated from the wonderful work achieved to date. The Adjudicator is very impressed by its three-year development plan. Five roads converge at the centre of the village at a very attractive roundabout. The Tullow road is most attractive, with the very well maintained grounds of St. Fiach's Church, graveyard and picnic area. The very attractive gardens of the houses on this approach road give an added welcome. The Catholic Church of St. Brigid's overlooks the centre and with the old school, now a Community Centre, encloses this meeting of five roads. There is a good architectural relationship between the church and the community centre, emphasised by the very fine landscape of planting, steps and a high degree of maintenance. However, at the entrance of the Parkbridge road to the centre, opposite the church, there is a large truck park that is very exposed to the centre and is very intrusive. Screen planting of trees is urgently needed here. The entrance to the village from the Bunclody road is again most attractive with its 1798 memorial, the Watch House and in particular the very beautiful five arched historic bridges over the Derry river. A very attractive and narrow entrance before entering High Street. This is a most attractive street, especially looking down from the roundabout with its curve before going over the bridge. The considerable landscaping and planting as well as the most attractive buildings all add to what the Adjudicator considers a village street of the highest merit and the Committee should be most highly commended on this work. There is a most pleasant pull-in point along High Street adjoining the Derry river with views up and down the river. Picnic tables and a two faced illustrated board on Clonegal are sited here with enough room for about eight cars. The river views are enclosed by tall mature trees. Again congratulations to the Committee. There are very fine mature trees enclosing Clonegal, more are needed, all noble trees, to make this village an oasis of trees for future generations.