

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonmore**

Ref: **231**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **231**

Category: **A**

Date: **29/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	231	228

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. Perhaps, for next year, you might mark on the map where specific projects have taken place in the current year or are about to take place so that the Adjudicator can easily have sight of them. Your plan makes very interesting reading. Try to do as much as you can per year within your physical and financial resources. Do not try to do too much in any given year as sometimes failure can lead to frustration. Your small committee and your residents are doing excellent work and they are to be congratulated on it. You received an in-depth report from last years Adjudicator. The following therefore is by way of comment on further perceived progress this year and should be read in conjunction with last years report.

The Built Environment:

The Catholic Church and old Church of Ireland again looked very well this year and are being well maintained. The cemetery is being well kept as is the one attached to the old church. St Mogues Well and the Bullawn Stone are two lovely features to have. The Community Centre could do with an upgrading.

Landscaping:

Some very nice landscaping presentations are made throughout the village noticeably at the green area in the centre, at St Mogues Well and on the approach roads. Walls are being very well maintained and are indeed also a feature of Clonmore. As part of your future planning consider planting trees and shrubs which will give you some colour on an all year round basis. Those planted in the past are now maturing nicely and create a lovely atmosphere throughout the village. The comments regarding planting made in last years report are still applicable and, in this connection, Carlow County Council should be able to give you some assistance and advice.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You do not appear to have initiated a project under this heading. Last years Adjudicator made some very good comment on what your approach might be and in the event you could consider involving your School children in a project to provide feeding tables and nesting boxes for birds and perhaps a wildlife information board showing what birds and animals can be seen in the locality. A project like this will also have the effect of getting you extra marks.

Litter Control:

Clonmore was practically litter free on adjudication day. This is a great achievement and reflects greatly the interest which your residents have in their environment. Congratulations to all concerned.

Tidiness:

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and again great credit is due to all involved.

Residential Areas:

Houses in general are being well maintained and many had some lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day. Others however seem to have gardens which are somewhat neglected. Perhaps they could be encouraged to get involved in the spirit of the competition by doing their own planting. This type of individual effort is critical in a small centre if you are to succeed in the competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads in general are being well kept. They set the tone for the rest of the village and should be strimmed regularly.

General Impression:

There is a lovely atmosphere in the village and great work is being done by your committee, Carlow County Council and your Fás workers. Further success will be achieved through careful planning and attention to detail and the Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Clonmore again next year to see what further progress is made. In the meantime keep up the good work.

Second Round Adjudication:

Clonmore is a very small village lying between the R747 and the R725 on the eastern boundary of Carlow county. The population is less than 200. A Committee of seven is a most commendable figure. Much work seems to have been done by the Committee and the Adjudicator is very impressed by its four-year development plan and its desire to build on the many historical artifacts and incidents associated with the village. The Committee should actively continue with its work of interesting the various tourism organisations and the Carlow Archaeological Society. There was no litter seen on the day of adjudication and the Committee is to be congratulated on this achievement.

The entrance into the village from Hacketstown is superb, with its very long beautifully built stone wall and adjoining flowering shrubs and well kept verge. The tall, mature overhanging trees complete the picture of innovation. On the axis of this entrance is the Church of Ireland church, which is in very poor condition and its future should be seriously considered. The graveyard within the church grounds is very well maintained. Adjoining this graveyard is the most interesting Saint Mogue's Well, with its excellent landscaping of an adjoining stream with its series of weirs. The sound of falling water creates a most tranquil atmosphere. An excellent project. The front gardens to the houses on this road to the R725 are most pleasant and give a most inviting welcome to the village. Opposite the ruinous Church of Ireland church is an older graveyard with the remains of a high cross and a superb collection of cross inscribed stones. Adjoining this site is a wonderful bullaun. The grounds of the new Catholic church and its adjoining graveyard are very well landscaped and maintained. Adjoining the new Catholic church is the old Chapel and its well maintained graveyard. The front facade of the old chapel is superb and must be protected. The Committee's project - over some years - to rehabilitate this old chapel into a Heritage Centre is excellent. Financial help must be sought. All efforts should be concentrated on this project before further work is considered, such as the Castle. Would the Committee consider putting their list of heritage artifacts on a web site. Signage on the roads is not looked after, the one from Hacketstown was damaged. On the Tullow road T-junction the sign was hidden by undergrowth. These should be cleaned of all algae and weeds and repainted. They give a very bad impression on coming to the village.