

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clough**

Ref: **221**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **191**

Category: **A**

Date: **02/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	191	191

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your entry to this year's competition. Although you indicate some reluctance on the part of the community to become involved you have managed to operate a good litter programme and a number of house holders contribute to your efforts through well maintained gardens. Despite these difficulties your committee should produce a simple 3 to 5 year plan of action for the village.

The Built Environment:

The Church, the most imposing building within the village is tidily presented its clean lines emphasised by an ordered curtilage of shrubs and lawns. The Clough National School is well maintained with a colourful frontage of shrub sand flowers. The shrub bed to the left of the car park needs some weeding. The hedging along the perimeter wall looks well. Work was ongoing in the car park beside Mary's bar which is attractive with its stone gable. This disruption was taking place at the planter at the back end of the car park. At the village t-junction the post office is well presented but there are still problems with the tin roofed house which continues to fall into disrepair. Both the Community Hall and grave yard looked well. The phone box could do with replacement.

Landscaping:

The planter which runs from Mary's Pub to the T-junction is very attractive and along with fine hedging, well maintained walls, fencing, and extended private gardens contributes to the overall village presentation. The planter set in front of the dilapidated house is maturing but not yet strong enough to overcome the problems in this area.

On the right hand side of the Abo Creamery Road is a nice selection of old trees.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Clough has a wonderful opportunity to exploit its wild life attractions. It is rich in trees, wild flowers, and hedges to support a wide ranging wild life habitat.

Litter Control:

Your litter programme was achieving success and little litter was noticed on inspection day.

Tidiness:

The pump on the Abo Cheese Road is in disrepair. There is a hanging basket but the pump itself is disintegrating.

Residential Areas:

Generally, residential housing within the village was well maintained. Particular note was made of the post office, the guesthouse, the two storey house opposite the school and the house to the left of the church.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads to Clough are dominated by mature hedging and large trees. Walls are generally good and within the village road surfaces and paths are in good order.

General Impression:

A quiet village set in a tranquil rural environment Clough has much to offer those who wish to get away from fast moving city or town life. It has some very fine household gardens which add colour to its gentle lifestyle.