

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clondra**

Ref: **706**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **185**

Category: **B**

Date: **29/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	22	23
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	22	23
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	185	186

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you your map and application. Clondra was a popular place on a warm sunny afternoon and there were a good number of people sitting in the sun outside the pub and on the boats. It is a village dominated by the canal and the bridges as well as the mill which hopefully in time will be restored or at least be part of a project.

The Built Environment:

The school did need a coat of paint and perhaps a couple of native trees would go a long way to enhancing the front of it. What is being done with the old school? This and a number of other premises seem to be vacant. The Richmond Inn sported some nice baskets. It was good to see the adjacent building up for sale - it is a fine building and perhaps the new owner may restore/rejuvenate it. The plans for the mill are commendable though it is a big task. The shop could do with some attention and some greenery would go some way to enhancing it.

Landscaping:

Landscaping was only reasonable. Some effort had been made - some baskets, and the area of the approach roads - further effort would enhance the village no end. The use of similar species trees/shrubs would also help to link the village together. The area down by the canal is attractive

and not overly manicured and therefore blends into the natural environment.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The island is a mix of planted species (Fuchsia was in full bloom) and grass. Is this area being managed or left to its own devices? Are there any plans to manage it further or perhaps undertake a survey of the wildlife (from water beetles though to swans)

The quarry area is very attractive and was ablaze with dog daisies - it is a dangerous place and access was prohibited though it was nice to look at.

Is any work being undertaken with the local school - ENFO, Irish Peatland Conservation Council, BirdWatch Ireland all have information that will help encourage wildlife to the area.

Litter Control:

Litter was a problem by the harbour. A bin which was full had overflowed on to the ground and it was blowing around in the wind. As the harbour is used by so many boats and the facility of litter bins are provided, they will need to be emptied more regularly especially in the summer.

Tidiness:

The gutters through the main thoroughfare were devoid of weeds and this gave this stretch a tidy air. The grass was also cut back neatly (though no overly so) in most places. Hedges did require a trim in some places though it was just outside the birdnesting season when it should not be undertaken.

Residential Areas:

There are two houses (which appear uninhabited) in prominent positions in Clondra. Is there any way they could be considered as potential craft/teashops for visitors? The viability would need to be explored. There was a wonderful display of plants in a garden opposite the school and this was set off by a well painted maroon gate. The houses on the Tarmonbarry road were well kept and it was nice to see the use of bog oak as a sculpture in one of the gardens linking in with the local landscape. The houses on the Longford road were reasonable. This road would benefit tremendously from some tree planting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Kilashee road had a good approach. The Tarmonbarry was well cut back and there are some nice stone walls. There is a nice stone wall on the Longford approach and the stone at the entrance of the village looked well. A dead branch required removal at the landscaped area. Further tree planting would enhance the approach roads.

General Impression:

Clondra did look well on a sunny afternoon. The judges had visited previously when there were floral displays down at the harbour and expected these this year too. The judges anticipate eagerly the new plan. Although another group is involved with it, do ensure that you have an input and there is communication between the groups and Longford County Council. It is your village so ensure that the input from the community is significant - best of luck.