

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloghan**

Ref: **699**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **191**

Category: **B**

Date: **08/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	21
Litter Control	40	20	22
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	191	188

Overall Developmental Approach:

Cloghan is situated on a very busy intersection and has many fine features. Your approach to the competition is very good and the involvement of many different organisations is no doubt a positive thing. The development at Lough Cloghan is excellent and is an amenity for locals and visitors. It is good to note your involvement with various bodies like Offaly County Council. Community groups across the country like yourselves are experiencing similar problems with the availability of FÁS schemes. You are complemented on your rota and keep up the good work. You have submitted extra information with your application and the maps proved useful. However, your future plans in written format (a brief outline is acceptable) would be useful also.

The Built Environment:

There are many fine premises here in Cloghan. The roundabout at the main junction in Cloghan has bricks pulled up. The landscaping on the roundabout is nice but the grass needs to be cut. The landscaping features at each road are very nice. The kerbing on these central areas needs to be upgraded or replaced. The school on the Shannonbridge Road is well presented but its boundary wall is in need of immediate attention. The garda station is not presented to a high standard. The Esso garage on the Ferbane Road could add some tubs or baskets. These premises should be painted and the back area, which is visible from the road, should also be painted. The grass verge where the cars are for sale should be cut. The Clogher Inn look well and the Londis Shop on the Tullamore Road is presented to a high standard, well done. The Caman Inn is clean and tidy on the

Banagher Road but would look really well with some hanging baskets. The Gables B&B is admired, as is the grotto.

Landscaping:

Landscaping at the roundabout and the yield signs from each road are complemented. They look very well and add colour to the area. The trees along the Banagher Road and the flower boxes are also complemented. Approach roads need a little more attention near the town, especially with long grass and weeds. The estate on the Tullamore Road adds some good mature trees. The corner here would be a good spot for a flowerbed and would be an attractive feature to this approach road. The Millennium Garden is a beautiful amenity and its landscaping is much admired. The water feature is especially beautiful.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife and amenity area at Lough Cloghan is commendable. The butterfly sign at the entrance is really lovely. The trees in the main parking area need support. The adjudicator enjoyed the walk by the lake. The large signs at the entrance are complemented. However, the pictures on the signage on the walk, while very good, are starting to fade and are very dirty. While you do have signs displayed regarding litter, a moderate amount is visible in the area. Lough Cloghan was nevertheless a pleasure to visit. Weeds have been sprayed in the parking area, but not removed. A stone flowerbed was admired along the way.

Litter Control:

On the day of adjudication litter control was very poor. A lot of litter was visible. You acknowledged that you scored poorly under this heading also last year. Your activities are complemented including the clean-ups. Hopefully, the anti-litter awareness programme you plan for next year will make a difference. Litter is a community problem and to a large extent requires a community solution. You have representatives from a number of organisations on your committee and litter should be a priority for all involved next year. Community initiatives to control litter have improved Tipperary and Laois. Litter control and tidiness are the core elements of the competition – many positive things follow when a community has pride in its place, including amenities and development. Try to include the children and contact your council to get the support of the Environmental Awareness Officer who can give you information and support for anti litter initiatives.

Tidiness:

Closely related to litter, the town does not present itself well under this heading. Weeds are visible everywhere and detract from the presentation of the town.

Residential Areas:

The residences on the Shannonbridge Road provide a lovely approach to the town. The only detraction is the tractor garage, which is untidy. The new development of houses on the Belmont Road look well and their completion will be an asset to this approach road. The derelict house next to the newsagents however detracts from the road and the roundabout area is general. The houses on the Ferbane Road are attractive with their stonewalls. Many residences on the Tullamore Road are also attractive. The estate on the left going in has no nameplate. Some premises here need either houses or boundary walls painted / cleaned. The green area here could be landscaped / developed.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads need surfacing or attention in many areas. Kerbs and pathways need to be upgraded. All premises need to be vigilant regarding weeds and all need to consider areas visible from the public

road. A major concern for the town should be the speed at which traffic travels through. A submission for speed ramps or traffic calming measures should be made to your local authority as a matter of urgency.

General Impression:

The general impression of Cloghan is of a busy, active town with a lot of passing traffic. The town has a lot of potential and could do very well in the competition. Try to pay attention to detail and in particular to litter. Well done on your efforts so far and keep up the good work.