

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonbullogue**

Ref: **648**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **257**

Category: **B**

Date: **09/08/2003**

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2003 | Mark Awarded 2002 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 41                | 41                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 34                | 33                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 37                | 37                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 23                | 21                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 37                | 37                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 17                | 16                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 26                | 26                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 34                | 34                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 8                 | 8                 |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>257</b>        | <b>253</b>        |

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Congratulations on yet another excellent presentation this year. Your long record of hard work shows in this attractive village. It is a pity that you feel your work for the Tidy Towns competition is not recognised despite the fact that you have been awarded the village prize in Co. Offaly since 1977. County Offaly has also recognised individuals in your group by awarding them joint person of the year. Well done and congratulations to both on receiving this well deserved award. Congratulations are also extended to other members of the committee who have been involved in the group for many years – it is appreciated that it is difficult to keep people motivated, but it is hoped that they are very proud of the results of the efforts they have made over the years. The village they have helped to create and pass on to future generations is certainly a credit to all involved.

### The Built Environment:

Premises in the village are presented to a very high standard. The church, the school, the garda station and medical centre, all look beautiful. Sympathy is extended to the family who owns the garage on the sudden death. Perhaps in time the premises will be re-opened or taken over. The forecourt is in need of some attention. The flowerbeds of the roadside here are attractive and they divert attention from the forecourt. You have obviously made huge efforts with beds, tubs and baskets. Individuals also make a huge effort, which is commendable. The water feature is lovely on the green at Woodlawn. Street furniture is complimented. Perhaps a long-term project could be to

upgrade street lighting with some tasteful lights (e.g. like the project installed in Abbeyleix, Co. Laois).

### **Landscaping:**

Approach roads are very well presented and attended. The beds along the main thoroughfare are amazing, but be careful not to overdo. Perhaps there could be just two or three colours. The village green is beautifully presented. Well done under this heading.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The mature trees in the village and on approach roads are no doubt an attraction for wildlife. Clonbullogue is fortunate that the River Figile provides a natural habitat for wildlife. Your sign at the garda station is complimented and your plans to put up signs either side of the river walk are commendable. The river walk is an excellent amenity and has been put forward for the wildlife award. A sign should be erected at the entrance near the bridge.

### **Litter Control:**

The village has done very well under this heading. On the day of adjudication, some litter was evident at the entrance to Woodlawn and at the shop.

### **Tidiness:**

There are no major problems under this heading. It is hoped that the talks you have undertaken with Offaly County Council and the owner of the derelict house will be productive.

### **Residential Areas:**

The majority of houses are presented to an exceptional standard. The cottages along the main thoroughfare are well presented with some beautiful gardens. Houses in Woodlawn are also well presented and maintained. Some houses need to be vigilant with weeds and to take care of boundary walls.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

All approach roads are well maintained and look very well. New paving on the main thoroughfare looks well and is an asset to the village. The landlords and landscaping at Ritchie's Car Park on the Rathangan Road is complimented.

### **General Impression:**

The overall impression of Clonbullogue is extremely favourable. Clonbullogue presents a very proud and well cared for impression. The village and its residents benefit greatly from your efforts so well done and keep up the good work.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Clonbullogue looked magnificent for second adjudication also. Approach roads are a successful combination of well maintained grass verges, backed by native hedgerow and stands of mature trees. Well done! Flower displays are stunning and amenity areas are commendable, both in design and maintenance. A little litter was noted near the hall and the shop but was not a serious problem. The hall is beginning to look a little weather-stained and some thought might be given to painting it to "freshen". Business premises enjoy a good standard of presentation as does the majority of residential properties. Well done on the development and maintenance of the picnic area and

riverwalk. The free standing sign for Killeens shop is in a bad state of repair. Road and footpath surfaces are good. We wish you every success in the development of a new sports facility. The adjudicator looks forward to many repeat visits to your lovely village.