

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloontuskert**

Ref: **574**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **256**

Category: **B**

Date: **31/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	20
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	34
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	256	252

Overall Developmental Approach:

Cloontuskert is very welcome to the 2003 Tidy Towns Competition. We note with interest your decision to put your three to five year plan on hold while implementing the objectives of the tree survey, and that this cannot be done until later this year. Congratulations on this initiative and on the method of fund raising through the credit union. We commiserate with you on the loss of your FÁS workers, but admire the commitment of the entire community in respect of the weekly rota for the cutting of lawns and tending of flowers and shrubs. It is fascinating to know that the graveyard dates back to the year 562 A.D. and its presentation is impeccable. We would be interested to have more information regarding the problems posed by the development of the old school.

The Built Environment:

The village is 99% residential with only one shop noted. The standard of presentation under this heading is excellent. Perhaps you could forward more information regarding the mural at the compost wall. The school looked magnificent as it had been recently painted and its boundary wall should now be cleaned.

Landscaping:

Young trees planted over the last few years are maturing nicely and both flower and shrub displays

were admired. As already noted above, your tree survey and the implementation of your landscaping plan at the end of the season are an excellent initiative. We look forward to next year's competition to see the fruits of your work.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Perhaps at some stage in the future you might undertake a more general survey of the flora and fauna of the area. No doubt the area provides many wildlife habitat particularly woodland habitats. We note with interest the wildlife projects being undertaken at the school in respect of the provision of bird tables, the creation of a wild flower garden and the development of a compost heap. All of these are very worthwhile projects; thanks must go to the teachers and of course the children themselves for participating.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent throughout the adjudication. Congratulations on becoming a Green Flag School. This obviously has a role to play in the excellent standard of litter control throughout Cloontuskert.

Tidiness:

The only problem under this heading was some weedy areas where it looked as if weeds had been sprayed but not removed. This was noted, particularly in roadside areas to boundary walls of residential properties and along some stretches of kerbs. No doubt the building materials located at the graveyard will be removed upon the completion of work.

Residential Areas:

Residential properties are beautifully presented in most cases, and no doubt the new houses currently under construction at the time of adjudication will be finished and presented to the same high standard. One or two boundary walls are in need of attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Cloontuskert namestone at the southern entrance to the village was admired once again. Perhaps a similar one could be provided for the northern entrance. The verges of some approach roads were overgrown to the extent that some road signs were partially hidden; this problem could be addressed. Road surfaces were reasonably good and street furniture looked well. As already noted, the stone wall at the graveyard is a stunning feature.

General Impression:

Cloontuskert is a beautiful village in soft gentle country side with an ambience of serenity. The commitment of the community to their village and the environment is obvious.

Second Round Adjudication:

The presentation and maintenance of the Cloontuskert cemetery is a most outstanding feature in the village. This deserves great praise and credit to all who are involved in this work. The small park at the main road end of the way to the cemetery is also attractive, as are the lovely stonewalls along the approach. The housing estate is attractive and the residences make good contributions. Hopefully, the surface of the road around the housing estate will be resurfaced before too long. Some extra attention to grass presentation particularly along the main road frontage would be helpful. The compact nature of the village affords a sense of community within the village. It is good that such consideration of the state of the trees and future tree planting is in hand and this shows a

very wise approach. As mentioned above, some attention to approach roadside overgrown vegetation would be helpful without too drastic action. The grassed verges are nicely maintained close to the village. The school gardens look especially well and it is great to see such during the summer when the school is in holiday time.