

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonegal**

Ref: **521**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **265**

Category: **A**

Date: **06/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	37	34
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	265	258

Overall Developmental Approach:

The fact that your hard working committee have the support of Carlow and Wexford's County Councils, LEADER, Carlow Rural Tourism, FAS and voluntary committees is reflected in the wonderful appearance of Clonegal village on adjudication day. The presentation of your public buildings, your landscaping, the village walls, old and new, are to be much admired and reflect greatly your interest in the preservation of your living environment.

The Built Environment:

Your School, Churches, Cemetery, Community Hall, 1798 Memorial, three village pumps, and various other sculptures were really well presented and, for those involved, great credit is due. The Weavers Cottage project is a wonderful addition, as indeed was the additional Pig which was much admired. The new wall at the Forge Stone Bed was visited and is a lovely addition to that part of the village. Your simple children's playground at the viewing point and the new access for the disabled were also noted and, in the case of the later, this is a lovely thoughtful addition to your infrastructure. Well done to all concerned. The Grotto looks very nice indeed and, in general, business premises throughout the village are being well maintained. Inevitably some need a new coat of paint but hopefully that will come in time.

Landscaping:

The description of your landscaping in last year's report can only be repeated again this year – it is breathtaking. The wonderful Square area and the River View development are superb as indeed are the numerous other landscaped areas throughout the village which cannot be identified by name as such but can only be admired. Mention of landscaping must, of course, include Watch House Village which creates a lovely impression at the entrance to Clonegal and, in addition, lovely landscaping was to be seen at St Fiaccs Church, at the 1798 Memorial, in the vicinity of the Cemetery and indeed at many other specific points. In addition and where presented, containerised planting, window boxes, hanging baskets and floral presentations on walls, poles and at bridges even further enhances the overall ambience of Clonegal and tremendous credit is due to all concerned.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading have been noted and your plan has been read with interest and will hopefully lead to further developments in the many areas which are available to you for a project of this nature. The wildlife board at the viewing point is being well maintained as indeed is the Wicklow Way map in the Park.

Litter Control:

Clonegal was completely litter free on adjudication day. What a wonderful achievement and again, great credit is due to all concerned in dealing with this important aspect of the competition.

Tidiness:

On adjudication day, the village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. As mentioned in last year's report, open storage at Watch House Village is still a problem and indeed there is some evidence of storage open to public view in the centre of the village as well. Perhaps those concerns could be approached with a view to carrying out a screening process either through tree planting or the erecting of lattice fencing. It is a difficult problem, not easily solved.

Residential Areas:

Valley View Estate and St Brigid's Terrace were visited and great credit is due to their residents on their maintenance. The new housing estate on the outskirts of the village (in process of being built), was also visited and will be a nice addition to Clonegal when completed. Other building works were noticed in the village as well. These tend to create an air of untidiness but this will pass and has been allowed for in the adjudication. Clonegal has some lovely cottages in the Main Street and those, plus individual houses, were very nicely presented on adjudication day. In many cases, including the housing estates, lovely gardens were on view in full bloom and added even further to the overall ambience of the village. In many other cases, window boxes, hanging baskets and tubs were provided and all concerned are to be congratulated on a wonderful effort.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads to the village looked extremely well as did the wonderful landscaping on them. All of this creates a lovely impression on entering the village which is very important. Road surfaces are excellent and pathways are being well maintained also. Great credit is due again to your Local Authority for this involvement.

General Impression:

Clonegal is indeed a garden village. It is being beautifully maintained and reflects wonderfully the interest that your residents have in the preservation of their environment. The village has now reached a very high mark in the competition. Further marks will be more difficult to come by and will probably revolve around careful planning and attention to detail. Nevertheless, never lose sight

of your maintenance programme which is all important and is the backbone of your entry into the competition. Again, many congratulations to all concerned for a wonderful presentation.

Second Round Adjudication:

Clonegal looked magnificent on second adjudication and your landscaping presentation is breathtaking, right down to the displays of Montebretia which together with other hedgerow wildflowers were in full bloom on the verge across from the church. Both the church and carpark, together with the school and its grounds were neatly presented. The road surface by the back of the school was excellent and the terrace of single storey dwellings on this road were admired. The outer reaches of the road were, however, a bit overgrown at their verge although this appeared natural. The new Sean O'Duinn public house was admired as was the PJ Dunne premises; the colour combination of the latter premises is excellent. Hopefully the traditional sash windows of the Conneelys premises will be retained upon refurbishment. The neighboring building was a little weather stained. Signage on the Ed. Plunkett and Sons premises is unfortunate. The Siopa Ui Dhuinn premises was excellent and has been nominated for the Irish Shop Front Award; a few weeds were beginning to sprout in its gutters, hopefully this will be checked. Residential developments were admired, particularly St. Bridgets Terrace with its attractive green area and mature trees. Sunflowers in the garden of a dwelling out the road beyond were admired also. The presentation of the small white cottage at the bridge with red doors and a green roof was excellent. Litter control is very strong in the village and no lapses were noted, the recycling point is being maintained in a tidy manner. Hopefully the new dwellings under construction at the grotto will be finished in a manner sensitive to the existing built environment of Clonegal. Congratulations on your beautiful public art and of course, as always, on the presentation of your small park. We look forward to repeat visits to your lovely village.