

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloghan**

Ref: **484**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **194**

Category: **B**

Date: **03/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	22	20
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	194	191

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for a good submission with attractive photographic displays. We commend you for your ability to cooperate closely with several agencies. Bringing the community with you is all important and represents the true spirit of Tidy Towns. Many of previous years' developments are now flourishing and will continue to enhance the area with the passing of time. You need to update your work programme plan each year and phase your developments. You also need to ensure that maintenance of existing developments is maintained.

The Built Environment:

The square is dominant and has many well presented buildings of high standard. The Camán Inn is well presented on this important approach. However, it must be said that St. Mary's Hall is a big disappointment and the environs in particular need improvement. We note you have agreed a development plan and we hope improvements will be put in place for next year. The appearance of the roundabout has improved since last year, but it should only allow essential road signs at this focal point. The school is fair. Shops and accommodation providers are well presented.

Landscaping:

You have scored well in this section and tree planting and shrubbery are pleasant and colourful.

Indeed you should continue the policy of tree planting and landscaping. You have numerous small open spaces ideal for flower beds. These would add great colour to the approach roads in particular. The Millenium Park is superb and we congratulate you for its development and high degree of maintenance. It is also a valuable community asset and can give great pleasure to so many people. The great mix of stone work, tree and shrubs, ornamental containers and seating combine to present a major attraction for the village. Loch Clochán is a unique development and people were fishing on adjudication day. Its maintenance is a little poor and some litter was evident on the day and also some signage needs attention. The surface at the car park should be upgraded when possible.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Again at Loch Clochán, wildlife is being well cared for and you have endless opportunity to raise your marks in this section. You are probably highly reliant on FÁS schemes and the possibility of reducing these schemes will always be a threat. The whole ethos of Tidy Towns is one of community effort from the voluntary sector.

Litter Control:

In general, litter control is good throughout and litter bins are adequate in numbers and well positioned. It is prudent to concentrate on the centre area of the village as this area is essential for high litter free presentation.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to untidy commercial premises, e.g., the back of the Esso Garage and many poorly areas on the approach roads. The village sign on the Belmont approach is missing. This approach is overgrown and need improvement.

Residential Areas:

There is an attractive new housing development opposite St. Mary's Hall: this is good policy for village infill and is favoured over ribbon development. Housing estates are well presented and many individuals have gone to great trouble in presenting their houses to a high standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your now need to improve your approach roads and aim for a similar standard to the square area. The national school boundary needs painting. As mentioned last year, pathways and kerbs need upgrading. You need to contact Offaly Co. Council and try and get agreement for a comprehensive upgrading.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Cloghan once again and witness the continued progress and enthusiasm from the committee. Your challenge now is to get more involvement from the voluntary sector and motivate those who are not pulling their weight. You have some black spots, and some with you for some years. In general, you have done well and you still have potential for becoming a high scorer in the competition. We wish you well for 2005.