

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonbullogue**

Ref: **367**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **259**

Category: **B**

Date: **27/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	38	37
Tidiness	20	16	17
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	34
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>257</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission and details of your work programme. Your reputation preceded you for this adjudicator making a first inspection of your lovely village. Mature and young trees, well maintained hedges, shrubs of great quality, rich flower beds, an attractive river and river walk, well presented buildings, excellent approach roads and, last but not least, a hard working community, all combine to make Clonbullogue a pleasant place to live in and to visit. You have worked hard over the years and your various awards testify to your sustained efforts in raising your marks to such a degree. Like all centres you are not without your problems and some have been with you for some time now. Well done on new tree and hedge planting and the ongoing work at the river-walk.

### The Built Environment:

Dramatic and stirring is a fitting description of the Garda Station, so prominent in location and undoubtedly one of the best in the country. Public buildings are all well presented again this year, although the hall has gone drab and should be painted a different colour. The national school is richly landscaped and well presented. The garage is now a problem and will further deteriorate with the passing of time unless it gets attention. We acknowledge the attractive flower beds fronting the garage. Churches are well presented with good landscaping. The development association building is poor in presentation and need its environs improved. There is an untidy open space beside it that takes from the appearance of this approach. The boundary of the house opposite the school needs painting.

## **Landscaping:**

You have excelled in this section and much of the previous years' landscaping continues to enhance. Your success in planting hedges of good quality is praiseworthy and make the village environs so attractive. Indeed, your floral display is comparable to other areas and very well presented and illustrates good community effort. Individual effort is also of a high quality and the village was really colourful on adjudication day. The village green is superb and has now to contend with a good deal of through traffic on the adjoining roads. The layout of the village is very good and planning in general is sympathetic to the environs of the village. We note a proposal for new housing: it is important that you keep abreast of the design and character of what is planned here and you should make your comments to the planning authority. Well done on the extra hedge planting at the river walk.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You are endowed with a beautiful River Figle on your doorstep and the development of the river walk with assistance from public funding is most commendable. Very few centres have such an amenity and you should exploit it with with the care and attention it deserves. This adjudicator walked the river bank which had an array of wild flowers in bloom. The sign frames have not been filled in yet with text at first adjudication, so we look forward to their completion. The water-wheel is novel: does it run in winter time? Perhaps the development at the Portarlington approach could be improved by upgrading the surface and giving it a more defined identity. This arched bridge is a gem and worthy of care and attention. We expect more promotion of wildlife when the work on the river walk is complete.

## **Litter Control:**

We cannot fault you on litter control and the village had no apparent problem in this respect on adjudication day: well done.

## **Tidiness:**

Your problems here relate to some untidy yards and unpainted farm gates. The poorly presented uncared for open areas also keep your marks from rising in this section. The bollards opposite the health centre need painting. Some of the shrubbery fronting Woodlawn housing estate needs improved maintenance and we also noticed a car and trailer parked on the grassed area, which is a pity.

## **Residential Areas:**

The standard of housing estates is, without exception, very good. Some individuals excel in presenting their gardens and we praise their performance. In particular, the village core has some very well presented houses with rich floral displays either by shrubbery, flower displays, addition of tubs or window boxes. Well done on the recycling at the bridge also.

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

The standard of roads and street care is very good. All approach roads are well presented, although you have some small problems on the approach by the hall. Of particular interest is the combination of stone walls, tree planting and grassed area, all contributing to a pleasant approach. We would remind you that side and back entrances now form part of the main adjudication, so we urge you to pay attention to these areas visible from the roadside in particular.

## **General Impression:**

It was a treat to visit Clobullogue and witness first hand the wonderful comprehensive presentation of a village with a great track record. Maintenance of your high standards is now of paramount importance, while at the same time coping with new developments and demands from a changing environment. Your challenge now is to bring the community with you, tackle the few problem areas and seek out new recruits from extended residential areas. Good luck in your endeavours.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

On our second visit litter control was again good. Prolific planting was evident throughout, clearly enjoyed by the community. Grassed areas generally had been well maintained and indeed some were being cut during adjudication. On the other hand some verges could have been better trimmed at edges. The old mile stone was a pleasure to come across. Neat hedging in front of houses looked particularly well. A few rusty road signs were noted. The picnic area and river walk is a wonderful asset of the village. You really must now try to deal with the several untidy side area, yards and forecourts which are hindering significant progress in the competition. Remember that consistency is the key to success!