

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloneygowan**

Ref: **234**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **202**

Category: **A**

Date: **16/06/2004**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 21 | 21 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 25 | 25 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 32 | 32 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 14 | 14 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 35 | 37 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 15 | 16 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 23 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 31 | 31 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 202 | 205 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of your work programme. We would welcome information on your plans for the future and your association with other bodies, in particular the local authorities. Following an agreed plan is very important for centres trying to raise their marks and motivating the community is all part of that. We reiterate our comments of last year regarding your thoughts for advancement.

The Built Environment:

You have some fine buildings in and around the village. Unfortunately the hall is a let down and needs attention. The school looked well and has some attractive landscaping. However, the side gate should be painted a bright colour. The F.L. Murphy bar sign is out of place and should be more in keeping with the rural environs of the village: too many Guinness signs here.

Landscaping:

The green is your biggest single environmental asset and should be presented to a high standard. The lovely mature trees illustrate the value of tree planting and we should plant for the next generation. You should consider developing a shrubbery at the Killeigh junction. It would provide an attractive introduction to the village. The open space beside Malones is very untidy and should be

cleaned up. You have attractive stone walls that add great character to the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have plenty of wildlife and mature and young trees will always provide source for wildlife. You might consider getting the school involved in a survey that would identify the popular species of the area.

Litter Control:

No great problems here, so well done to all concerned. Litter is everybody's business and the provision of litter bins by commercial operators is part of any litter control.

Tidiness:

Your weakness here relates to poorly presented open spaces and some broken walls. Farm gates would look really well if they were painted a bright colour. The grotto is well presented but the adjacent telephone kiosk is in need of repair. You should tackle this yourselves and clean it up as it was mentioned in last year's report.

Residential Areas:

On a individual basis, houses look really well and many residents have excellent gardens. However, you do need some coordination. This will only come through organisation and motivation. The felled beech tree near the school provides opportunity for some sculpture and you should contact your heritage officer and investigate the possibility getting a local sculptor take it on as a project.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road structure is good and reasonably well maintained. Approach roads are not very well presented and need grass cutting. Approach roads are a vital part of the competition and provide first impressions to all centres. You should also consider two Fáilte signs which would add colour to the village: this could be illustrated with some artwork.

General Impression:

The village has potential to do better and we suggest a public meeting aimed at getting a development plan formulated. Such a plan would act as a catalyst for further action. It would also give people an opportunity to get involved in a meaningful way. We suggest you contact the Co. Council and other relevant agencies with an interest in enhancing the village. Good luck in your efforts.