

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonegal**

Ref: **285**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **270**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	44
The Built Environment	40	37	36
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	38	37
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	270	265

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your terrific submission with a great deal of highly detailed information, including numerous beautifully presented colour - coded maps highlighting detailed areas. You obviously show a great level of interest in the fascinating and varied history of the village and this is reflected in presentations and elements within the village, for example Fionn Mac Cumhaill's Hounds! The adjudicator was pleased to note your healthy approach to the competition in terms of actively encouraging without being imposing! Your promotion of the use of the Irish language is indeed highly commendable. The adjudicator certainly laughed at your confession that you have "look outs" for spotting possible tidy town judges! Your hard work and effort has certainly paid dividends as the village was a pleasure to re-visit after a number of years.

The Built Environment:

The out building with the stepped gable on the Watch House side of the bridge is very interesting and would benefit from being presented to the same high standard as buildings on the opposite side of the road. The stone walls of the bridge looked well. Siopa ui Dhuill was very fresh as was Osborne's. Do be careful when removing render from buildings to ensure that this is correct from a conservation point of view as the Heritage Council are anxious to ensure that render is not removed from buildings that were intended to be so. You appear to have access to good architectural advice

so do be sure to use it. There are a number of fine Georgian buildings within the village - do ensure that timber up and down sash windows are retained in any renovations that are taking place. The National School looked very fresh in its prominent location at the top of the street. Both the Church of Ireland and Catholic Church and grounds looked magnificent - of particular note being the attractive stone wall to the front of the former. Conneely's was in need of painting, as expected from problems you have encountered in that regard in previous years!

Landscaping:

The colourful rhododendrons are a magical surprise on arrival over the bridge from Watch House Village. The landscaped areas of the village were as magnificently maintained as ever - continuous maintenance is very helpful to the overall cause, as is the addition and supplementation to the fine stock of public art installations by good quality craftsmen. The low maintenance gravel areas were admired, with displays of foxgloves and snapdragons in the centre of the village. A marvellous display of lupins was admired in another landscaped space. The well maintained graveyard wall with its rose trellis contributes well to this category of the competition, as do the grounds of both the Church of Ireland and the Catholic Church.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The tree project by the local school children made interesting reading and the nesting boxes are a good initiative. Perhaps this work can be extended to incorporate further projects such as a wildflower garden and feeding tables etc.? The attractively painted wildlife information board at the Derry River View was noted and admired.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good and Clonegal is obviously a worthy winner of Carlow's Litter League Competition.

Tidiness:

The recycling area opposite the Catholic Church was neatly presented but perhaps you could consider further enhancement in this area in order to be considered for the new award in the competition for recycling areas. It is aimed towards recycled areas that are suitably and discreetly sited and well presented. Perhaps you can consider this as a possible project for next year's competition?

Residential Areas:

Work was well underway to the new houses in the centre of the village. The adjudicator was pleased to note that you were monitoring this situation and have persuaded the developer to make reference to the village's history by use of its name! The retention of the grotto in this location was also a marvellous coup. An attractive new development by the graveyard was also admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The well tended grass verges and permanent planting and overhanging trees on the Tullow Road looked well. This is a magical entrance to the village. The Carlow Road looked quite magnificent with its display of sweet williams and the montbretia must be magnificent when in full bloom!

General Impression:

A marvellous effort all round! The adjudicator was delighted to re-visit the village after a number of years and even more pleased to note that consistent progress had been made since last visiting! Good luck with your future endeavours.

Second Round Adjudication:

Undoubtedly Clonegal is a beautiful village and with a little more attention to detail it could be among the award winners. For instance a few drab walls here and there, also some untidy yards and outbuildings could be up-graded to achieve a more consistent standard. On the other hand it was particularly pleasing to see instances where it was difficult to distinguish between public and private; this is exactly the desired approach where gardens spill out to the roadside and the public areas are so well tended. Many beautiful buildings were noted. E.D. Plunkett & Sons is a fine stone building but it is strongly recommended that some signs be removed or at least the composition of the total building including signage be considered from a design and heritage point of view. The entrance to Huntingdon Castle could be simply improved by repainting the gates. The Post Office was especially admired and is being nominated for an award. The riverside is a wonderful amenity. We look forward to returning next year.