

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonmore**

Ref: **629**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **236**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	236	233

Overall Developmental Approach:

Clonmore Development Association would appear to be an enthusiastic and committed one with your seven - strong committee. The lack of local interest you mention in your application, is indeed disappointing and hopefully this can be rectified in the not too distant future. The support you receive from Carlow County Council and FAS must be helpful to your cause, judging by the work you have achieved to date. Your three year plan makes interesting reading and your ideas are both sensible and achievable. Do, however, state the years in which you intend to achieve these objectives e.g. Year one is 2005. Good luck with all of your objectives.

The Built Environment:

The restoration of the Church of Ireland is to be highly commended and appears to be being conducted in a sensitive and appropriate manner. Do ensure that you seek the advise of a conservation architect just to be sure that you are conducting the work in a suitable manner. The Bullawn Stone is an extremely interesting feature of the village. Perhaps it could be made more accessible and an information board could be provided explaining its origins and significance to the passer by. The Norman castle is also an interesting feature to have in the village. The Catholic Church and bounary wall appeared quite fresh, as did the pub which looked very bright and cheerful in red! The Community Centre should be painted before next year's competition. The mature graveyard with its overhanging trees in the village centre was being beautifully well maintained.

Landscaping:

The magnificent graveyard has been previously mentioned elsewhere in this report. Its trees will be a marvellous asset to the village in years to come. St. Mogues' well is indeed beautifully maintained and a most peaceful place to visit. The landscaped area in the village centre with its mature overhanging chestnut tree and well manicured grass looked magnificent on the day. The attractive permanent planting and flowers including marigolds set into a stone bed leading to the Catholic Church was also admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your Birdwatch sign was noted, as were your plans for nesting boxes at St. Mogues' Well. Perhaps a wildlife trail could be incorporated with your proposed walks along the old Mass Paths? Do consult with local experts in regards to the habitats in your area.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was as good as ever and there appeared to be a sufficient number of litter bins.

Tidiness:

New recycling bins appeared to have been located adjacent to the Community Centre. There is a new award in the competition for appropriately sited and designed recycling areas, so perhaps you should consider the possibilities for this area for next year's competition. A number of outbuildings needed their tin roofs repainted in a traditional red colour. The wall of the outbuilding adjacent to the pub had some staining evident to its surface and should be repainted before next year's competition.

Residential Areas:

The charming houses on the Tullow side of the village were admired. There were some beautifully maintained gardens, although one or two boundary walls of houses were in need of attention before next year's competition. Staining was also evident to the base of the cottage at the crossroads in the village centre.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The simple, small and discreet nameplate on the Tullow Road was admired, although the adjudicator could not see the evidence of one on the Hacketstown Road. Although the grass verges had been maintained well close to the village centre on the Tullow Road, it then became quite wild and overgrown with cow parsley. Do ensure that roads are maintained in a natural manner, and ensure they don't appear wild and overgrown.

General Impression:

Clonmore is a most attractive and interesting village steeped as it is in historical significance. It was a pleasure to re-visit on adjudication day!

Second Round Adjudication:

Verges were overgrown on the Tullow Road and the community centre forecourt was weedy.

Despite some poor boundaries some excellent individual properties were to be seen. The riverside looked well as did the planting at the road edge near the ancient graveyard. The various amenity areas were admired. Well presented stone walls, hedging and planting were noted on the Coolkenna Road but significant litter (caused particularly by an overflowing litter bin) detracted somewhat. The Church was neat and verges were better on this road. Good stone walls and grass verges contributed to the Hackettstown Road but weedy footpaths diminished the effect. In short, more attention to detail is required.