

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clane**

Ref: **581**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **225**

Category: **D**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	19
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	225	222

Overall Developmental Approach:

The material submitted with the entry form gives an excellent picture of the activities of the tidy towns committee- their plans and achievements. Great credit is due for this. One vital aspect of committee work is to report back to the people and this is being well done in Clane with the Le Ceille leaflet and the good level of communications with the community through many ways. Involvements of people in litter collection and daffodil planting provides further opportunities for building community spirit. With the enormous number of houses and apartments being built in Clane a lot of work is needed to try to involve as many new people in the tidy towns movement as possible and to form a cohesive approach to developments. The calendar is a great idea for giving publicity and awareness of the committees work. The plans for the next five years are comprehensive and well focused and should improve the town greatly. The map was also very helpful.

The Built Environment:

There is an enormous amount of new building development in progress at the moment in Clane. This is very dramatically changing the face of the village. The Building at the corner site Main Street/ Prosperous Road junction is well under way and when complete will provide an important landmark. The Yew Tree Square development is also extensive. The large housing and apartment buildings developments at the roundabouts and near the Alexandra bridge will impact greatly on the built component of Clane as well as resulting in traffic volume changes to be dealt with.. Both Scoil Mhuire and Scoil Phadraig look very well. The Hospital and Hazel Hall appear to have some structural

work ongoing, which is temporarily taking from the appearance of the frontage at that area. The Abbey and surrounding walls look very well and give a central landmark focus or emblem to the village. Business premises in the main street are generally well cared for with good standards of paintwork and general décor. Those that require attention now are small but become apparent as the majority look so well. Protruding advertising signs at shops are not very desirable as they give a cluttered appearance.

Landscaping:

There are a number of fine landscape developments through the village and surrounds. The schools on the Prosperous road make an excellent contribution with their well-landscaped areas both inside and to the road frontage. The community park is an interesting development and efforts to make this a natural park are interesting – perhaps some narrow toe paths – created by a narrow mowing would allow people ramble closer to all the wild plants. Some interpretative sign boards would also help. Three roundabouts appear to be developing well and with time will improve. The surrounding segments of land associated with these roundabout need landscape treatment – even well mown grass would be preferable to the neglected look that some have at present. The stream park is very attractive and nicely treated without any fussiness. The planting at the Fr. Sullivan memorial looks very well and is cared for beautifully with the surroundings Abbey Park grassed areas. The planned “Garden of Peace and Remembrance” is a lovely idea and is worth looking forward to. The daffodil planting project is a wonderful initiative and must have given a lovely springtime lift to the area. Colourful containers through the street give a lovely summer colour sparkle to the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside walk initiative is exciting. This gives a lovely riverside walk. When development work is complete on the bank side of the walk it will be better as the openness is somewhat unusual. Some gaps in the vegetation along the walk to allow windows of river view may be important and occasional benches facing the river would be welcome. The Sli na Slainte is a welcome initiative. The village roads very quickly merge back to a very rural type of road on leaving the village with attractive hedgerows. These are a very rich source of wildlife and a great asset to have nearby. School projects and the gathering of local information about what can be seen and where would provide a good inventory of the wildlife of the area.

Litter Control:

The many initiatives organised in the village show great commitment to litter control. The problem with the bin type is noted and hopefully a satisfactory resolution will be reached. The work of the local scouts is commended. Some litter was noted in the main street and a little by the community park

Tidiness:

While great efforts are made by the committee at the Abbey Green, stream park and the improvements along the streets – the main source of difficulty under this heading is as a result of the enormous building programme in progress. This results in all sorts of untidiness at and around the building sites. A great deal of this building will be completed in the foreseeable future. It is important that the committee keeps a watchful eye on all such developments to ensure that the developers leave the sites in an acceptable condition when completed and that appropriate landscaping is carried out. An eye on planning applications is also important. Some undergrounding of cables has taken place in the main street and hopefully the remainder will also be treated likewise.

Residential Areas:

There is a wide range of residential developments at Clane. Many of these are very new and the

treatment of the estates seems promising with so many trees planted on approaches and within the estates. Hillside estate has excellent tree planting and is a good example. Tree and landscape treatment at Hillside Heights and College Grove are further good examples. At St. Brigit's Terrace the hedges look very well. Bungalows at An Crucan show another style. Houses at the Abbeylands areas also noted. The presentation of individual houses within estates plays a very important part in the overall appearance of the estate and encouragement, information and competitions are all helpful in promoting this aspect.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads are in poor condition in many areas with pot holes, patchy surfaces and water pools after rain. The footpaths are also unsatisfactory in places. Most of this is due to the massive building development ongoing, the associated heavy truck traffic and unfinished or non-reinstated surfaces following disruption. A programme of work aimed at having these rectified is needed. The roundabouts are helpful with the large volume of traffic. The beauty of the rural hedgerows in close proximity to the village is a lovely asset.

General Impression:

Clane has undergone tremendous change – this is not complete yet. The old parts have been well maintained and safeguarded - particularly around the Abbey. Blending in the new and the old is now the main challenge. When Clane settles down again the whole village should leap ahead and the work of the committee will be able to take much credit.

Second Round Adjudication:

A great deal of developmental work was seen in Clane, where it seems that there is a tussle between extensive suburbanisation as a satellite town to Dublin and the attempt to retain the essential village features: this committee is doing splendid work in endeavouring to make the division blend seamlessly. The most prominent changes (seen in mid-August) were the new buildings under construction at the main cross roads and the new relief road (not shown on your map) – which will surely live up to its name, and perhaps will be extended through An Crucán? The areas of housing appeared to be very varied, from the charming cottages on the curve as you arrive from Naas (one of these seemed to be derelict and it is hoped that it will shortly be reinstated for it has real charm) to the exceptionally neat labyrinth of The Rise, The Drive, The Crescent, etc; from the smart new town houses on the Relief Road (does it have a proper name?) to the cosy and well-kept enclave of St Brigid's Terrace. It was good to see children paddling in the stream and other citizens enjoying the park. Two not-so-tidy areas were noted – the overgrown kerbside at the hospital, and excessively enthusiastic commercial signage near the Garden of Peace and Remembrance. This adjudicator admired the way the schools are so tastefully laid out along the Prosperous road. It was encouraging to read your excellently illustrated submission, and to learn that you have planted daffodils widely – so easy to grow and they supply wonderful colour at a time of year when most needed; this scheme also underlines your understanding that the Tidy Towns concept is a year-round activity. Because of your increase in marks, Clane has been accorded a second adjudication. Congratulations on your many achievements – and, incidentally, your logo is most attractive and the calendar is a splendid idea.