

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloone Village**

Ref: **374**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **235**

Category: **A**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	32
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	36	35
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>233</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

It is good to have Cloone Village in the Tidy Towns Competition again this year, and the late entry did not cause a problem. Thank you for the details contained in your Entry Form.

We still do not have a Tidy Towns Action Plan for Clone Village, and this matter was referred to in the 2004 report also. All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 –5 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term. It should indicate year by year the projects that you wish to undertake for Tidy Towns.

### The Built Environment:

Cloone Village is a most attractive village of character set in beautiful lush countryside. It is indeed an oasis of peace in busy Co. Leitrim. Thankfully the village is not being over run by new housing estates. Your Committee should adopt a viewpoint on such development in consultation with the wider community.

The block wall now faced in stone on the north side of the village is a really impressive feature of the Ballinamore approach road.

The adjudicator understand that work on a new sewerage scheme is to start late 2005 or early 2006. The adjudicator would like to reassure the committee that marks will not be lost in the 2006 Tidy Towns Competition as a result of untidiness cause by the sewerage works. The landscaped area across the road from here with the low painted timber fencing and green solid gate adds much to this part of the village.

Have you considered replacing some of the shop front signs in the village with signs that use more traditional materials such as timber and hand-painted lettering. This could be approached on a co-operative basis.

Projecting advertising signs were noted on a number of premises in the village and this needs attention. The issue is how many of these signs are really essential from a commercial point of view?

Some fine stone buildings and walls were noted in the village and these materials help to add special character to Cloone Village.

The removal of all overhead wires would add a lot to the appearance of the village as would the new village signs that you have in mind.

At BBS the dead weeds and grass should be removed, otherwise this is an attractively presented property. Work is underway on a building beside Doherty's and this will need to be repainted white when all works are completed.

The Community Centre is a large building excellently presented. The high quality of the landscaping here is very eye catching.

### **Landscaping:**

The adjudicator looks forward to experiencing the wood walk project. The landscaping at the school has matured very well and blends in with the landscaping for the next door Community Centre. The daisies in the grass strip at the front of the Church are a nice feature, and these small details are quite important.

The new wall below the Graveyard with the flowers, shrubs and low timber fencing is visually effective and links in well with the fencing across the road. Just above this the new Graveyard landscaping is very effective and makes this area, unlike many graveyards, an attractive one.

The young trees on the Main Street are visually effective and tie in very well with the other landscaping in the village. When these trees mature in a few years they will be an even more effective character forming feature of the village.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The Local Gun Club cooperation is noted in regard to wildlife issues. In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat Survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area

This need not be an expensive Survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in one of your Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control in the vilage and on the approach roads was quite good on adjudication day. Some incidental litter was noted in a few locations such as in the landscaped area opposite the Community Centre.

### **Tidiness:**

Any developments on a new use for the old school? Do remember that this building will need to be painted from time to time pending a new use for the building. Generally the village is very tidy. Field gates can become a feature of your approach roads. It may be possible for you to get agreement from the relevant landowners that all damaged gates will be replaced, and that all gates will be painted to a common colour scheme.

### **Residential Areas:**

Overall the presentation of most properties was most satisfactory, many of which have been recently painted. At the new house on the Mohill approach road the roadside bank needs to be reinstated. This should not be a concrete block wall faced with stone. Ideally it should be a replacement stone and earth bank, set back from the road if that is a Planning Permission requirement.

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

On the Mohill approach road the banks and verges have been rather roughly cut, and the cut grass is still lying there. Can you make a rule for yourselves that cut grass must be taken away on the day on which it is cut? The Ballinamore approach is excellent but the roadside banks and verges have not been cut inwards from the Speed Limit Signs. A little additional work would bring a bog improvement to your approach roads.

### **General Impression:**

Your marks have gone up again this year, on top of an increase of 6 marks in 2004. At this level in the competition attention to small details becomes quite important. That together with improvements on your approach roads and work on the issue of wildlife, could bring further marks

progress in the future.

Congratulations to everyone for such great efforts to date.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Cloone Village enjoys an excellent setting amidst soft countryside of low wooded hills which is probably best appreciated from the high ground of the cemetery; the village itself is presented to a standard which complements its setting wonderfully, well done to all involved. We look forward to reviewing details of the proposed nature walk through the woodland area to the west of the village with next years submission. Litter control was not as good at the time of second adjudication, sweet wrappers and plastic bottles were noted at a number of locations; marks were not lost this year however if the situation carries over into next year there will be a loss of marks. Bags of drinks cans were noted at the recycling point, perhaps an additional receptacle is necessary? the car wrecks on a site located across from the sports grounds is problematic also. The Cloone Co-Op premises looks unsightly; as it is such a large building its negative visual impact is strong; consideration might be given to either painting it or planting with climbing plants; perhaps the neat timber-post fencing could be planted with hedge-row.