

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clondra**

Ref: **452**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **195**

Category: **B**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	195	193

Overall Developmental Approach:

Clondra is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. Do try to include a summary of your planned work programme spanning the next three to five years with next year's application as it can facilitate an increase in marks. Clondra is a beautiful village located on the Grand Canal with magnificent views of the River Shannon. It has a number of distinctive heritage buildings, although they are not all smartly presented. You might like to consider a heritage project for inclusion in your planned work programme. There are no shortage of ideas in relation to heritage. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for information on how to proceed.

The Built Environment:

Both the school and church were presented to a reasonable standard, however weed growth in the gutters of the church suggested neglect, also it is beginning to look a little weather stained and its windows are in need of painting. The Richmond Inn is the most important focal point in the village, it enjoys magnificent presentation, well done to the owner. The Camelin Inn looked quite well, however its plastic fascia sign should be replaced with a more attractive one. Unfortunately the shop continues to look a bit on the shabby side and its forecourt area could be improved. Vacant buildings look untidy as mentioned in reports of previous years, if window and door apertures were boarded up and brightly painted, this could lift their negative impact substantially.

Landscaping:

The Millennium Garden looks wonderful well done for reseeding necessary, due to the negative impact of work in progress on the canal lock. The canal banks look really wonderful. Verges of approach roads were satisfactory and stands of mature and semi-mature trees at the entrance from the Longford Road were admired. Both corner sites on the N4 represent an excellent introduction to Clondra. A few container plants were noted here and there, perhaps their use could be extended throughout the village and approach roads but they must be both colourful and profuse to make a strong positive visual impact.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The graveyard is being neatly maintained and the ancient ivy clad remains of the church make it an important heritage site as well as its significance for wildlife. Some consideration might be given to a heritage project in this area. Do keep us informed of your activities on the island, for example this year you noted that you removed some inappropriate vegetation, we would like to know about this, what the end result was and the consequences for wildlife. Perhaps a rudimentary survey could be carried out on habitats and information provided on an interpretive panel that is easily accessible.

Litter Control:

Litter control is excellent, well done. Your activities involving the school children and your walkabout to identify litter blackspots with residents appear to have been effective. Submit details of your overall litter management strategy and other litter control activities for next year's competition as they can be a source of additional marks.

Tidiness:

Well done on the recycling point at the shop, it was being maintained in a tidy manner but was not as attractive as others in other parts of the country. Solid gates might be provided to screen the side and rear area of the shop and to give greater enclosure here from the public road. Reference has already been made to the large mill complex and the suggestion regarding boarding up and brightly painting its window and door apertures. A large undeveloped site beside the church looked untidy as did other undeveloped sites and derelict buildings. The wire mesh gates at the entrance of what appears to have been an old estate looked poor, perhaps there is the making of a heritage project here. We appreciate the difficulty caused by sewerage works and think that you have done well to maintain the village at the current standard.

Residential Areas:

Stone boundary walls to older houses are beautifully presented and were admired together with mature gardens. A number of other roadside boundary walls were in need of upgrading which can either be cleaning and / or painting as necessary. A single storey dwellings at the top of the Kilashee Road is weather stained. Work in progress to a number of new dwellings have been noted. A good presentation under this heading.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Namestones as both entrances to the village are attractive and stone walls lining approach roads with intermittent growth looked well also although some sections were breached. The road surface is reasonable and bridges look well also. A little more work on maintaining them weed free at the base would be appropriate. A weedy stretch of footpath and kerb at the Longford end of the village was noted. Most items of street furniture looked well.

General Impression:

Clondra is a beautiful village, enjoying an excellent location, on the banks of the river Camlin, on the Grand Canal and off a national primary route which makes it thoroughly accessible. The village offers a quiet oasis for the travelling public and always rewards a visit for any occasion.