

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloontuskert**

Ref: **301**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **262**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/08/2005**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 43 | 43 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 36 | 36 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 36 | 36 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 24 | 24 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 37 | 37 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 16 | 16 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 27 | 26 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 35 | 35 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 262 | 261 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

Cloontuskert is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. You did not include your plan or any details, however we note from your application that the village has been awarded Village Renewal status by Roscommon County Council and that a total of €83,000 will be spent on village renewal in Cloontuskert. This is a wonderful achievement, congratulations and we look forward to the fruits of this work in years to come. Congratulations on your Bronze Medal status award in the National Tidy Towns Competition of 2004. Well done on your fund-raising activities and on your liaison with the Arigna Catchment Area Community Company and Roscommon County Council.

The Built Environment:

The school was beautifully presented and its grounds are now quite magnificent. Are the boundary walls a little weather stained or was it just the dampness of the day? It was difficult to say. The old school is being maintained neatly and flower displays here looked well also. Has a decision been made regarding its future? Will it be included in the village renewal scheme? We would love to hear from you in this respect. The grotto, pump and stone wall around the cemetery were presented well again this year.

Landscaping:

Roadside greens with their range of mature and semi-mature trees are presented to the highest standard, being maintained neatly trimmed, well done to all involved in this undertaking. A seat or two here could have been whitewashed to freshen appearance. Reference has already been made to the school grounds which enjoys an excellent level of landscaping. Flower displays in containers and flowerbeds throughout the village were admired for their profusion and colour, well done. New planting has been noted also and it should add to the already visually pleasing ambience of the village as they mature. The hawthorn hedgerow behind the fencing located across from the cemetery is thriving well. Hopefully the purchase of a ride-on mower will lessen the task somewhat of maintaining greens, well done on the erection of hanging basket poles.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations on the maintenance and overall presentation of the cemetery, it really is excellent. We note from your submission that your plans for the development of a wildlife park in a field adjacent to the cemetery has been put on hold to facilitate underground sewerage infrastructure for the development of a football field. It is good to note that you are getting expert advice from an ecological planning company.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent during adjudication, well done. We note from your submission that a rota system is in place for the regular sweeping and cleaning throughout the village, well done on involving the school children, the youth of the area and teachers.

Tidiness:

A number of untidy side areas were noted to dwellings and back entrances. Sprayed weeds featured along some stretches of kerb in the residential estate and at the side of the bog oak sculpture which detracted from the presentation of the latter a little bit. We have not noted a recycling point, perhaps this might be considered for next year?

Residential Areas:

We note the new house which has developed at the entrance from the Strokestown Road and the garden here has yet to be developed. This should make a strong visual impact upon completion. The majority of dwellings are nicely painted in soft pastel shades which is easy on the eye and complements the beauty of your natural surroundings. A few boundary walls were in need of improvement and a driveway was suffering from sprayed weeds in at least one instance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads to Cloontuskert were presented to a reasonable standard and namestones are nicely presented. They may need to be cleaned in the short term future. Your Bronze Medal signs looked really well, congratulations again on this achievement. One wonders at the wisdom of a sixty kilometer per hour speed limit through the village and feel that the maximum allowed should be fifty. The resurfacing of road surfaces was necessary at a number of locations, for example in the environs of the cemetery, throughout the residential development and at the interface of the school car park with the public road. Again we commend you on the appearance and overall maintenance of the cemetery stone boundary wall.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Cloontuskert is one of a beautiful village which has settled comfortably into its soft, lush hinterland and is one where its community cares deeply about their home village.

Second Round Adjudication:

There is an abundance of new houses in the village, which should be monitored to ensure that they are in keeping with Cloontuskert's unique charm and character. The graveyard was as well maintained as ever and a canopy was noted over the external altar, indicating that Mass had taken place recently! The stone village nameplates on approach roads with begonias planted at the bases were noted and admired. A few papers were noted on the Laneborough side of the village but this was the only problem noted as regards Litter Control. Do ensure that you don't "gild the lily" when attending to Landscaping the village. There is a good balance of permanent planting and floral displays but this adjudicator feels that perhaps the hanging basket stands are a little contrived and perhaps metal planters would be more appropriate in the vicinity of the graveyard. The wild daisies opposite the boundary wall in this location made a magnificent display! Do ensure that you formulate a work programme for next year's competition. This document need only be a few pages long outlining your objectives for the village's future and setting a timeframe against their achievement. This document should include plans for the old school in its prominent position at the focal point of the housing estate. A misaligned downpipe is causing staining to the building itself and a minor outbreak of broken glass marred the presentation of the schoolyard. Cloontuskert was a pleasure to revisit after a number of years!