

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonmellon**

Ref: **506**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **214**

Category: **B**

Date: **20/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	214	213

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application and detailed map which makes judging a lot easier.

However, your submission should have included a schedule of work completed for the year and a brief three-to-five year Development Plan. This plan will help you identify what can be done to improve the village over the next few years and the resources you will require. In addition, the works-completed schedule will allow you to monitor your achievements on a regular basis.

The Clonmellon Tidy Towns committee continue to be proactive and works in cooperation with local community groups, the local authority and other agencies.

The Built Environment:

Clonmellon is a village with a lot of potential. Both the Church and the Credit Union are fine examples of what can be done with a little effort. The derelict pub beside the ESSO garage remains an eyesore as do the other derelict buildings in the area. As mentioned in last years report, the farm machinery yard could benefit from some planting to screen its view from the main road. There appears to be some resurfacing work underway in the courtyard of the Market Square, evident by the presence of an industrial roller in the yard. This is an encouraging sign as the Market Square could be a focal point of the village.

Landscaping:

Mature trees line the main street which is very picturesque. However, the guard rails surrounding each tree should be repaired and painted and the practice of auctioneers nailing signs to the trees should be discouraged. A number of the businesses have obviously gone to great effort with window boxes and tubs of flowers which add great colour and vibrancy to the main street. The village pump while nicely maintained could be better presented as indeed could the picnic area on the outskirts of the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Comments made in previous reports need to be addressed. Again there is an opportunity to gain valuable extra marks by focusing more on wildlife and natural amenities.

Litter Control:

While there was little litter evident on the main street on the day of inspection, some bins were quite full and many of these need to be replaced. The recycling area unfortunately was not being utilised properly and had some dumping around it.

Tidiness:

The village while looking neat and tidy on the day of adjudication could benefit from better weed control mechanisms. The bases of the trees in particular need attention as indeed does the footpath across from the recycling area. Some of the approach roads also require better weed maintenance.

Residential Areas:

As in previous years the residential areas looked well with nicely maintained houses, gardens and open spaces. Shantober Estate is an excellent example this. Perhaps the stone wall at the entrance to Carrickmore could be further enhanced.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As in previous years the Kells Road was nicely maintained with good verge cutting and the adjudicator was pleased to note that attention had been given to the approach road from Killalon with the verges well trimmed and very little weeding required. The flowers at the name sign were also noted. The Mullingar approach road in contrast requires considerable attention, with unkempt verges and poor weed control. Many of the signs on the approach roads need attention.

General Impression:

As mentioned Clonmellon is a village with a lot of potential and the efforts of the Tidy Town committee are paying off. Keep up the good work