

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonegal** Ref: **37**  
County: **Carlow** Mark: **284**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/06/2006**  
**10/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>284</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Clonegal is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition; it is a pleasure to revisit you this year and we noted your absence in 2005. Clonegal has a track record of success both in the National Tidy Towns competition and at county level and of course in other competitions also. Your lovely village is situated on a river bank and is nestled cosily amongst surrounding wooded hills; approach roads on their elevated ground affords scenic views of the surrounding countryside and of the village itself. Thank you for your excellent submission and supporting material this year, which facilitated adjudication. Clonegal has been considered for the Irish Language award and the Landscape award.

### The Built Environment:

The church building looked wonderful having been freshly whitewashed and its grounds are being maintained to an excellent standard. Saint Fiachs Church of Ireland on the Tullow Road looked well also; and the stone building which has ecclesiastical features located on the same road appears to have been restored. All buildings within Clonegal looked well, both period buildings and more modern ones and Siopa Ei Dhuinn has been considered for the Irish Shop Front award, other business premises are well presented. Hopefully the plastic neon fascia sign Ed Plunkett & Son together with the Morris sign will be removed eventually.

### Landscaping:

As noted above Clonegal has been considered for the Landscaping award. Thank you for the excellent support material. The banks of the river Derry together with the small park at the Tullow and Park bridge junction has achieved a standard of excellence, which is faultless. Landscaping at the road junction was admired for its diversity of its plant species, maturity and excellent presentation. The shrubberies in the schoolgrounds were beautifully presented also and green areas here have been meticulously maintained.

The landscaped banks to the residential development on the Tullow Road was admired also. The Park Bridge road was admired for its excellent grass verges together with its semi mature birch trees, which form a beautiful entrance to Clonegal from the Park Bridge road. Congratulations on an excellent presentation under this heading.

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

The burial grounds behind the catholic church were neat in their presentation, as were those on the Tullow Road. Wildflowers and grasses were a feature of some approach roads particularly the Tullow Road which provides important habitat for wildlife. It is good to note that you are aware of existing species of the area and you have taken steps to conserve wildlife. Your wildlife viewing area is a nice touch and the wildlife map board indicating the species present promotes awareness and understanding of wildlife, well done on an excellent presentation. The Ben Mulhall Memorial Park is neatly presented.

#### **Litter Control:**

Congratulations on the litter free status of Clonegal on the day of adjudication. Your work since the survey of 2000 to eliminate litter black spots has been successful and it is encouraging to note that you are now officially a litter free zone; congratulations also on your status as Carlow's tidiest village in 2004 and 2005. The education and publicity drive has been most effective.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Your recycling facility located in the car park has been maintained to the highest standard, together with the recycling point in Watchtower Village the latter been nicely landscaped also. To perform to a high standard under this heading it is necessary too encourage all sectors of the community to survey the amount of waste generated by themselves and to formulate strategies to minimise the amount produced, as opposed to simply collecting waste for recycling. We anticipate a performance of excellence under this heading in the years to come given your track record to date in every other respect. The Race Against Waste booklet included in this year's TidyTowns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

#### **Tidiness:**

Existing construction sites in the village were very well contained and there was no overspill of untidiness out on the streets of Clonegal. The commercial yards at the top of Park Bridge road were also tidy and suitably screened. The open storage of building materials across the bridge in Watchtower Village was neatly managed and did not present a problem under this heading; a fine presentation in respect of tidiness.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Moyaconb Meadow is beautifully presented and its roads and entrance are nicely surfaced; the development on the elevated site on the Tullow Road was admired also. Private gardens to all dwellings are attractively designed and beautifully maintained and Springfield House is beautiful. Period houses are nicely presented also. Roadside boundary walls on the Kildavin road were noted for the beauty of their stone work. The new housing estate with the large expanse of grass in Watchtower Village enjoys excellent maintenance also.

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

Well done on the bi-lingual feature, interpretative panels, and namestones throughout the village and its surroundings. The welcome nameplates were noted together with neat field boundaries. The stone bridge out the road beyond the church is an attractive feature and it was good to note its weed free status. The church car park across the road from the church was nicely surfaced. The road surface on the Tullow Road was excellent and the neat stretch of hedgerow on the road to the sports grounds was admired, together with the field boundary on the Kildavin road. Street furniture was well presented and public art appreciated.

#### **General Impression:**

The overall impression of Clonegal is one of a village with a well cared for appearance and where the commitments of its inhabitants to their home place is unquestionable.

#### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The adjudicator was delighted to see that Clonegal looked as well as ever on Second Adjudication Day. It was pleasing to see that many properties have retained their original up and down sash windows, such as the building that incorporates Sha-Roe Bistro, Siopa Ui Dhuinn and the adjacent houses. Indeed, most of the commercial properties of the village were very fresh indeed. A new footpath was noted on the Bunclody side of Clonegal. The church was well presented, and the recycling area was very neat. Work was taking place to

the national school on the day. New houses were also under construction at Moyacomb Meadow, where the grotto at the roadside had been maintained. The freshly whitewashed cottages and colourful displays of nasturtiums were admired at the Watchhouse side of the village.