

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clogh** Ref: **390**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **232**
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	232

Overall Development Approach:

Clogh is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which was helpful in adjudication. Your committee of seven are to be commended for achievements for Clogh to date, we note that you would appreciate some additional voluntary effort but are appreciative of what is forthcoming. Well done on the support you receive from both Kilkenny County Council and The Clogh Heritage Group. Your frequent training visits to the schools in gardening and to engage their support for clean up days is an excellent initiative. We wish you well in your future efforts.

The Built Environment:

Well done on the removal of a derelict house and its replacement by an attractive new bungalow in the village centre. The widening of the footpath in your small village on the road to the school is an important development under this heading also. Buildings in general in the village centre looked quite well.

Landscaping:

The recently planted hardwood trees within the village and the riverside will provide valuable heritage for future generations and of course will increase your diversity of wildlife habitats. Your planned leisure garden for the entrance to Chatsworth estate sounds interesting and we would like to know more about this. Avoid an over-reliance on flower displays, as these are ephemeral in favour of the permanent planting of trees and shrubs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

What an excellent idea to set up meetings with the local farmers group regarding the removal of ditches and hedgerow, hopefully your efforts here will be rewarded either with retaining existing wildlife habitats or increasing these. Your river clean up and work to the bridge is an excellent initiative as are the walking path and the welcome heritage signs on approach roads. You might like to consider the publication of the wildlife present on an interpretative panel in order to heighten awareness and appreciation of your wildlife within the community. Perhaps the school children could become involved in this project also.

Litter Control:

Well done on your regular clean ups involving both school children and adults and your use of a newsletter to publicise this. Litter bins can only help so far in combating the litter problem. What is needed is frequent if not daily litter picking rotas and a survey to identify the source of litter in order to treat it at its root cause.

Waste Minimisation:

Your initiative under this heading regarding the distribution of circulars to householders on the importance of segregation of household waste is excellent and an important first step. Might you consider inviting a speaker from your local authority to address the community on composting and the role it has to play in the reduction of waste? To perform well under this heading it is necessary to strive to reduce the amount of waste produced in addition to collecting and segregating for recycling. The Race Against Waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

Tidiness:

Again you are congratulated for your meeting with FAS management as well as local Councillors to tackle the problem of weed control and hedge maintenance. You are of course mindful of the appropriate times of the year for hedge cutting in relation to the nesting season. Be careful regarding any work accomplished for the graveyard and you are referred to the Department's brochure on the care and conservation of graveyards. The removal of overhead service cables and their ducting, particularly at focal points, are invaluable for the enhancement of the streetscape.

Residential Areas:

The Best Kept Garden Competition is an important motivator in communities as most householders enjoy gardening. This might be taken a stage further by encouraging householders to have the same interest in landscaping common green areas and verges both within their own estates and in public areas also. Reference has already been made to the new footpath from the Cois na Habhann to Chatsworth housing development. The publication of a monthly review of your achievements under a variety of headings should be an important motivator also.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new Welcome signs will be an excellent introduction to the village of Clogh, we note the removal of the granite stone on the Castlecomer Road for safety reasons. Roadside verges and hedges have been neatly maintained and the village centre, roads and footpath surfaces enjoy good maintenance also. The new flower containers are an added bonus, don't forget to keep these planted for seasonal interest as they can lift a cold dark winter morning also.

General Impression:

Well done on a good overall presentation with good improvements noted and also on the support you have achieved from various groups including your sports clubs. We look forward to future visits.