

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonaslee** Ref: **410**
County: **Laois** Mark: **267**
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	267

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Clonaslee to the 2006 Tidy Towns Competition. The documentation supplied with your Entry Form was very helpful to the adjudicator. The beautiful hand drawn maps, photographs new and old and the supporting text were all used on adjudication day. It is recommended that you prepare a 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Clonaslee. This should indicate your projects to be undertaken each year, the estimated cost if any, and the likely project partners. It is appreciated that indications of future projects are identified on the maps supplied. With a committee of fifteen people Tidy Towns in Clonaslee obviously continues to enjoy strong support and you have a very good public relations programme in place. Your previous involvement in The Golden Mile programme and other environmental initiatives is commended.

The Built Environment:

On arrival into Clonaslee it was great to see that work appeared to be underway on the Heritage Centre steeple. The new Boxwood Garden to the rear and side seems to be coming on well and will add to the overall presentation of this interesting old Church. The Cemetery on the Mountmelick Road that you nominated for an award was visited and was well presented. At the Community Centre and School the buildings are set in a well presented landscaped area and the central mature landscaped area looked especially well. It was noted that the 1937 school is for sale and hopefully the building will find a new use appropriate to Clonaslee. Along both sides of the Main Street many buildings had been freshly painted and the trees and window boxes and hanging baskets greatly enhanced the built environment. The newly painted yellow and red building with no name was really beautifully presented and the colour choice here is excellent. The unusual stone entrance area to the Catholic Church sets off this well presented building. The Credit Union buildings needs to be totally re-painted.

Landscaping:

The development of the formal garden at the Heritage Centre together with the Boxwood Garden is so appropriate to this old church building. The area to the side of the church was rather untidy but presumably this was because of the work underway on the steeple. Your committee decision to provide year round planting in certain areas is a wise decision and will help to reduce the maintenance requirement of such landscaped areas. On the Mountmellick Road the 60 new Rowan Trees seemed to be coming along well and will greatly enhance this approach road when mature. The adjudicator would have loved to have seen the 12,000 Daffodil bulbs in bloom and it must have made a most impressive impact on the Mountmellick road. Good landscaping was noted at the entrance to Slieve Bloom Park. The landscaping on the Brittas Wood road was very colourful but consideration might be given to the painting of the poles used for the hanging baskets. The naturally occurring plants in the fine stone walls here are an additional attractive feature of this road. The New Millennium landscaped area was excellently presented and the standard of maintenance here was found to be very high.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The provision of the additional bird and Bat boxes are is welcomed together with the Information Panel at Brittas Wood. The Clodiagh River project was examined in detail and you have done much work at this attractive location. However the grass areas contained a lot of weed and this problem needs early attention. In the river bed the stones seemed to be covered in either algae or other discoloration and detracted from the overall impact of this area; water levels were low on adjudication day. The new trees here and the sandblasting of the bridge have added much to this amenity area.

Litter Control:

In your documentation you indicated that litter control was one of the Committee concerns. However on adjudication day towards the end of July litter control was found to be quite good. Some litter was noted in the Gorragh River at the river bridge and on the Tullamore approach road. At least one of the new litter bins was being painted when the adjudicator arrived in Clonaslee!

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the community that they support to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Clonaslee for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste, segregating litter during clean up events. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste. You indicated in your documentation that you were working with the local papers and businesses on waste minimisation and for 2007 we would be very interested to see details of these initiatives.

Tidiness:

Weed growth at the road side verges was noted at the Gorragh River bridge, and an untidy open space was noted behind the New Millennium landscaped area. The dead weeds and grass to the rear of the village pump feature to the side of the Garda Station need to be taken up and removed.

Residential Areas:

At Hillside some road boundary walls were in need of painting and otherwise this estate was quite attractively presented. Slieve Bloom was really excellently presented and the unusual enclosed area at the entrance area was neat and tidy. The landscaped areas at this estate are being very well maintained despite all the dry weather. Like the other estates in Clonaslee Mountain View also impressed. Good presentation of private houses was a feature of the Tullamore road and some had attractive colourful hanging baskets and window boxes to compliment recent painting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Mountmellick approach road was impressive and the new trees on the right are a great landscaping addition and investment in the future. The edge of the road opposite the trees is ill defined. Has any consideration been given to kerbing here and that might allow the development of additional landscaping on that side of the road? On the Tullamore approach consideration might be given to the painting of the poles that support the hanging baskets. The Kinnity approach road looked well but cut grass should be removed on the day of cutting. On the approach road by the school and Community Centre the bank and verge on the left was badly overgrown while the verge opposite had obviously received a lot of attention. The timber village signs are most attractive and are of appropriate design.

General Impression:

Clonaslee was one once again beautifully presented and the adjudicator was delighted to have an opportunity to see the village after an absence of some time. Good luck with your 2007 projects.