

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clough** Ref: **411**
County: **Laois** Mark: **208**
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/08/2006**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2006 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 25 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 29 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 29 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 15 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 34 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 0 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 25 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 30 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 208 |

Overall Development Approach:

Clough Tidy Towns Committee is welcome to the 2006 Competition. Many thanks for your well-completed application form and neat map which were both very useful on the day. Do you have a work programme? This was mentioned in last year's report and that of the previous year. This adjudicator would be inclined to agree with the sentiments expressed by the previous one. It would be of great benefit to you to write one, as you will be able to monitor your progress as the years go by. It need only be a few pages long and you could use the comments contained in this year and previous reports as the basis for it.

The Built Environment:

The few buildings of the village were well maintained on the day. The grand stone church looked imposing and well presented. The school and its associated landscaping were greatly admired. It had some attractive trees in its grounds, and the ecclesiastical mural at the oil tank – including a cow - looked very well! The Foxrock Inn and Mary's Bar were both quite fresh, the latter sporting some attractive hanging baskets.

Landscaping:

Landscaping at the school was admired for its combination of permanent planting and flowers at the entrance area. We understand that the stone walling in this location was new. Tree planting and hedging were much admired throughout.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had left this section of your application form blank. Since you have a good working relationship with the school, it should be possible to organise that the children conduct a study of wildlife habitats in the locality. There was an abundance of sparrows evident in the village

on adjudication day for some reason!

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was good! Only an odd paper was evident on the Rathdowney approach roads. Well done to all concerned.

Waste Minimisation:

Again this section of the application form was left blank which leaves the adjudicators at something of a loss as to how you assess this issue! Please consult your Race Against Waste brochure for ideas on furthering this aspect of the competition. For instance, does the local school take part in the Green Flag initiative? If so, they can be of some help to you in this category.

Tidiness:

The village generally had a neat and ordered appearance on the day. Weed control was a problem at roadsides and footpaths between the church and the Foxrock Inn. The derelict cottage in the village centre had been freshly painted-even to the point of painting on new blinds in the blackened windows! The retention of the traditional phone box is commendable but it will need attention in the not too distant future, as it is in a very bad state of repair at the moment.

Residential Areas:

Houses along the approach roads and in the village centre were well maintained. New detached houses at the Lime Kiln looked bright and cheerful. Do ensure that any new houses are finished to a high standard, in terms of both materials and landscaping, in order to fit in with the character of the village. An attractive creeper clad house in the vicinity of the phone box was admired. The garden of a house near the derelict cottage looked very cheerful.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approaches to the village were on the whole quite well maintained. Road signage was unfortunately rather neglected-nameplates and both sides of the village were quite grubby with red algae.

General Impression:

Clough is a peaceful and attractive village, which was admired on the day. Do ensure that you formulate a work programme for next year's competition.