

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonbullogue** Ref: **618**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **276**
Category: **B** Date(s): **05/07/2006**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2006 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 43 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 35 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 37 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 26 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 38 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 10 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 16 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 27 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 35 |
| General Impression | 10 | 9 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 276 |

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the comprehensive application form, excellent work plan, sketch map and additional supplemental material in support of your application.

This is the adjudicator's first time to visit Clonbullogue and the plaudits that have been bestowed on it to date are well deserved.

Your interaction with the Offaly County Council and other agencies, especially FAS, has paid off handsomely. The Community has certainly played its part as well and indeed there was work being undertaken on the day of adjudication. Your comment on adjudication notice has been noted.

The Built Environment:

Like many other villages in the present era housing development has hit even an idyllic place such as Clonbullogue and it is hoped that the Figile Manor scheme, which is sold out, will fit in with the existing village infrastructure.

The RC Church and School were noted for the well-maintained buildings and grounds and here credit is due to those responsible for their upkeep, grass is due for cutting in the school.

The Church of Ireland, not an imposing building but very rural looking, is very attractive, the gates need to be repainted or maybe replaced as they are rusting slightly.

St Broghans Hall is in the process of being refurbished and it is good to note that the main entrance is also wheel chair accessible. The Garda Station is a very impressive building well maintained and one presumes that it is still the seat of the law in Clonbullogue.

There are a number of very attractive private residences of period vintage within the core.

The business premises owners are to be commended for their contribution to the Tidy Towns effort and Riches Bar in its prime position has set a high standard for the rest.

Landscaping:

This is a category that the Village has set high standards in over the years and this year was no exception. The central green area has been immaculately kept and its charm hasn't been spoiled by over beautification. The use of bedding plants in nice formats within the village bring colour that one does not encounter in too many any other similar sized villages.

The imaginative green tubs filled with tried and trusted petunias and marigolds are most unusual and set off the fountain area very well.

The wooden tub at old pump on the green has the desired effect of catching ones attention, again a simple but effective idea.

There were some very impressive individual gardens, notably in St Broughans Terrace, to be seen and premises that did not have garden frontages compensated with prudently placed hanging basket and planters.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Committee has been very proactive in helping to increase awareness among the community of the need to embrace the concept of wildlife appreciation and nature conservation.

The projects undertaken to date, such as accessibility to your local river Figile in the form of an excellent riverside walk, are imaginative but also practical.

The nesting boxes were noted at the entrance to the picnic area, which incidentally is in a beautiful setting.

The stocking of fish will encourage people, both local and visitor, to engage in one of life's most leisurely pleasures. It may be appropriate to place fishing stands at accessible points.

The upgrading of the notice board is also commendable because these things do not occur of their own accord.

The continuation of the taken for granted whitethorn hedging will have the desired effect all along the river bank on to the Daingean road.

Lets not forget one has the Irish Parachute Club that hosts an activity that brings visitors to your village.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good and on this occasion no litter was seen on the river walk which, given its relative remoteness, could be a potential black spot.

The excellent work of promoting the anti litter message among young and old is paying off.

The stone bins in Woodlawn Drive are appropriately placed and the re cycling centre was tidy.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in this year's competition and it is clear from your submission that you have grasped the concept and the message of better waste management.

The measures outlined are in keeping with what Race Against Waste objectives are all about.

There are examples of other initiatives that can be undertaken, the publication included with the original application package should be consulted and new ideas put into action well in time for next year's competition.

Tidiness:

The standard here was very good and the work of the committee as outlined has addressed issues that were noted in last years report.

As nothing is perfect in this life there were a few back spot areas that were untidy by Clonbulloge standards, but it would be churlish of one to highlight these as they are well known to committee members no doubt. Encouragement is the key to effecting change of attitudes.

The site near the CDA building, which was highlighted in last years report, was acceptable.

One has always concerns about the areas around new building developments, so it is very much hoped that the developers of Figile Manor will tidy up in quick time when the construction work has been fully completed.

Residential Areas:

The standard of presentation of private residences in the village and its immediate surrounds was near excellent and it is very obvious that a pride of place is very much to the forefront of residents.

Whether it was a premonition of the arrival of the adjudicator or not, but there was a number of people painting premises, boundary walls and tending to gardens on the day.

The Woodlawn Estate residents deserve to be commended for the manner in which they have presented their respective properties and maintained the communal areas.

The concerns of last years adjudicator with regard to Figile Manor are well founded and it is incumbent upon the developer to ensure that estate is finished and landscaped to a standard befitting the village of Clonbullogue.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrance from Bracknagh was stunning on a bright summers morning with sun shining through the trees that line both sides.

The Edenderry entrance was less dramatic but was very appealing none the less and the flowerbeds at base of trees were admired.

The Rathangan entrance was a little rough at housing development entrance.

Overall the road surfaces were very good and Offaly County Council has responded to your requests for upgrading of surfaces in the village and at entry points.

General Impression:

A very impressive presentation and work plan that has addressed difficult issues and resolved those that are within the control of the Community.

The attention to detail is the strength of your committee.

Congratulations to all the wider community for making the village of Clonbullogue such an attractive and pleasant place to live in.

This first time visitor will be enticed back later in the year view the village at ones leisure.