

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloneygowan** Ref: **405**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **221**
Category: **A** Date(s): **18/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	24
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	221

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form and the basic sketch map that made it easier to identify places in the village and its environs.

Cloneygowan is an idyllic little village with huge potential to do better in the competition, now one appreciates that not everyone is enthused by tidy towns.

I would ask the Committee of 4 to seek additional help from the local community, and engage with both the local authority and other agencies to help put a basic 3 year plan together from next year on.

If this could be done progress would follow.

The Built Environment:

The Hall alluded to in last years report has been repainted and complements the excellent National School. Murphy's Bar and Grocery is one of the last such establishments in Ireland, it has an impressive façade but it is now time to replace plastic sign with a more appropriate one.

It was noticeable that a few commercial premises were not indicated on the map and one particular one was, impartiality would not go astray here.

The Caman Inn (Direens) looks as if it is about to be re furnished and Culberth's is also very well maintained.

There are a number of very well presented private dwellings in the village centre most notable is the two storey farmhouse on the green. Road surfaces were very good and contribute to the overall appearance. A few black spots stand out but it is noted that planning is sought to build 9 houses at one of these sites.

The two planning notices are significant as they combine 15 houses between them.

Landscaping:

The National School had an exceptional garden with prize winning hazel tunnel and this contributed to the strong performance in this category.
The Green was very well maintained though slightly bare, maybe some colourful planters would brighten the area.
There were some excellent and colourful private gardens to be seen especially in the cottage residences opposite the Green with very rich and colourful annuals – it must be the Offaly peat.
Trees, Copper Beech and Chestnut but to name a few, in abundance

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No mention of any form of wildlife project in your entry form which is more the pity as the Village has many habitats.
lan's Reserve was noted but it would be important if the Committee was to engage with the Principle of the National School and try to get some project that the school children could work on.
The Hazel Tunnel in the School Grounds shows that the kids in Cloneygowan, with proper guidance, are very inventive.
Such a project no matter how small will gain you marks in the Competition.

Litter Control:

There was very little litter except some cigarette butts outside the pubs probably as a result of a quick break during the World Cup.
Keep up the good work in promoting the message of good litter control.

Waste Minimisation:

Good to note that the Committee has actively taken an interest in this category and some initiatives are planned for the future vis a vis recycling.
Consult the Race Against Waste publication supplied and refer to what has been taking place in similar size communities.
This is a category that additional marks could be gained while contributing to the whole ethos of better waste management.

Tidiness:

The phone box is in a very poor condition and the Committee should keep bringing this to the notice of Eircom.
The Village is quite small and this stands out like a sore thumb, mind you it is not the only village that Eircom have failed to address such problems.
A number of premises have fallen into a state of dereliction and unfortunately this can be a delicate subject within a small community.
One of these will soon be gone as there is planning permission for 9 dwellings at that particular site.

Residential Areas:

The newer estates on the Tullamore side of the village are kept well, communal areas are clean if a little stark and these will mature with time.
Now is the ideal time to get people from these areas involved with your tidy towns committee.
The long established scheme of very appealing cottage residences in the village proper were very well maintained with one exception.
Some had lovely gardens in place and these have been mentioned under the Landscaping section.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrance from Tullamore was enhanced by the footpath, which is there for practical purposes first and foremost.
The Portarlinton entrance was in acceptable condition and also enhanced by a relatively new footpath on the outskirts.
The main road has an excellent surface probably the benefit of being sited between two main towns.
The minor roads down to the Cloneygowan FC ground and out to Kilcavan were well maintained with good surfaces

General Impression:

Cloneygowan is a very pleasant village and the adjudicator very much enjoyed the time employed on the job here.

I would urge the Committee to consider expanding and engaging more with the local County Council.

Cloneygowan has the potential to achieve the same standard attained by the more successful neighbouring villages.

Keep up the good work.