

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Cloontuskert** Ref: **289**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **270**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>270</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

There is a great sense of enthusiasm about the committees work in Cloontuskert. This is evidenced by the marvelous work that has been done over the years and in particular the work at the cemetery and surrounds and approach – a marvelous tribute to the past generations of the area. The Village Renewal fund is also a great achievement and though delayed this will represent a very important step forward in the village. The short plan submitted with the entry form should be fleshed out a little more for next year outlining in a list of priorities. This would act also as a checklist of achievements year by year.

### **The Built Environment:**

The unique village structure looks very well and is organised well. This structure is very interesting and no doubt will be a characteristic of a certain time in the history of architecture and village planning in Ireland. The new building at the school is causing some disruption but this will result in a better school buildings and this is far better than having any prefab buildings erected as so often has happened in the past. The wall to the road frontage of the school will also be upgraded hopefully. The walls on approach to the cemetery are very attractive and well cared for as is the stone building ruins in the cemetery. The grotto continues to look well and these grottos are a mark of a certain time in Ireland and so very worthwhile caring for.

### **Landscaping:**

The roadside tree planting along the main road is very effective and gives a very good impression of the village. The grass care is also well tended. Inside the housing areas there is a variety of care and maintenance and it would be great if the whole area could be upgraded giving a garden effect. This would be challenging as so many individuals are involved but this could be a unique garden estate. Some weeds/grasses have been allowed to grow by kerbs in places and some of the lawns need better attention. The cemetery is a garden in itself and is a lovely feature of the village. The approach to the cemetery is

attractive and the entrance from the road with the wood carvings is very attractively presented. The planting of permanent plants last year will help to give an all year round effect. The containerised plants give a touch of summer colour.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Again the cemetery must be mentioned here as the surrounds are conducive to wild life appreciation. The timber fence and new beech hedge will help this area. The bog garden planned will be a marvelous feature and with the involvement of schoolchildren from the local school will have special value. The plan to make the wildlife sanctuary by the cemetery will also be a great project and congratulations on the interest and enthusiasm of the committee for being proactive in such projects.

#### **Litter Control:**

The rota system for litter collection appears to be working very well as the village looks very clean. Some small amounts of litter were noted. The idea of speaking in the school to the children about litter is excellent as they will get the message and see it in practice from an early age.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is noted from the entry form " we always segregate our litter in our regular cleanups" This is a great approach and hopefully with encouraged all the people of the village will do likewise in their homes and either reduce the levels of waste or use ways to recycle. The reusing and recycling approach in the school is also very positive. This aspect of the competition is about concentrating both on the need to choose materials and methods that avoid producing waste and to consider environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste that is generated. A campaign of awareness with both homeowners and business people needs to be started to give an understanding of the importance of waste management and recycling. Compost heaps can be made for green materials, avoidance of using materials that do not degrade easily and separation of the various materials so that they can be recycled.

#### **Tidiness:**

There is a very good element of tidiness in and around the village. The new paths planned will be very helpful in keeping a tidy approach in the village. The village renewal scheme no doubt will result in a much enhanced village and make for more tidiness. Often the impact of these schemes is to create greater interest and responsibility and pride within the village.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The main residential area of the village is well maintained. As mentioned last year some boundary walls need attention. The colour tones are good. The rota system mentioned in the entry form is very helpful and creates a good community spirit. The new houses in the village add an extra dimension to the once very tight village.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The main road is in good condition. The speed of passing traffic is a little disturbing at times but thankfully the housing is well enclosed from this traffic. The work on the roadside verges is noted and where the grass is present a good standard of care pertains. The trees along the main road give a nice maturity to the area and the small picnic tables add a relaxing touch although the grass surrounding them needs attention.

#### **General Impression:**

Cloontuskert is always a pleasure to visit on account of its uniqueness of organised housing and particularly the very striking cemetery care and presentation. The village renewal scheme when implemented will be interesting to watch and hopefully very good developments will result