

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonmore** Ref: **38**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **252**
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	252

Overall Development Approach:

Overall development Approach:

Clonmore are welcome to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. You have done lots of hard work apparent in the village. You have a very active committee of 12 people and we note you meet once a month. Congratulations on your invitations for new ideas which had a great response of 65 improvement schemes – no less. Your committee seems well able to inspire confidence and actions too! This is evident in this year's inspection with a lot done well.

Well done too on your initiative in Ballyconnell School.

Clonmore is clearly a very interesting and historical village, with the old medieval St. Mogue's graveyard and castle in the vicinity. It probably has at least two high crosses, one in St. Mogue's and one in the Church of Ireland graveyard opposite. It has many other monuments of religious significance and merit and we welcome your good clear map including:

- A bulllaun stone by the bridge
- St. Mogue's Well
- Church of Ireland Church
- Our Lady of the Wayside modern Church and graveyard.
- The old Catholic Chapel and graveyard which was closed when the new Church was built. The dates on the plaque are from 1736 -1999. The old Church has been re-roofed and will be re-opened in memory of a young curate killed last year.

The Built Environment:

The village street has lots of old brightly painted buildings of traditional nature including Denis Byrne's Pub with old farm buildings adjacent. There is an old post office on the other side of the street. An old school at the castle end of the town is to be improved for suitability in use as a community centre.

St Mogue's graveyard has been cleared and is very attractive and well maintained, redecorated and beautifully presented. We were also impressed with the Church of Ireland Church and churchyard. The graveyard was also of a high standard. St Mogue's Well is attractively presented and should be kept simple.

Good work has also been done to the farm buildings beside the pub and also to the post office.

We note also with anticipation the work remaining on other projects listed within the town. Perhaps some advice could be obtained from Carlow County Council Architectural Conservation Officer on what can be done to make the fine castle safe and accessible. At first sight it appears to have a large bawn wall.

Landscaping:

The village is located in lovely parkland with beautiful mature trees on all sides with simple grass cutting in open areas by FAS. The village has a very simple 'together nature' to it with four graveyards and three churches in its plan and grass cutting makes access easy and dignified.

The landscaping throughout is of high quality and is mostly flower beds. We noted in particular that at St. Mogue's Well that was full of seasonal colour.

Maybe low planting might be added to highlight the bullaun stone without obscuring the view of the meadow behind. The landscaping is being well maintained in accordance with your plan.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We noted that bird boxes have been put in place.

It is apparent that in such an area of trees and wild flowers in fields, insects and birds co-exist. It may be possible to organise children at Ballyconnel School to undertake research on flora and fauna and produce display boards for each. From these may come nature trails or Sli Walks. These have been developed to great success in other villages.

Litter Control:

The village was litter free on the day of the adjudication.

We congratulate you on the action taken on skips, litter bins and wheelie bins and your participation in the litter league. We look forward to your litter awareness campaign. The Bring Bank in the old school/community centre was clean and well presented.

Waste Minimisation:

To perform to a high standard under this heading it is necessary too encourage all sectors of the community to survey the amount of waste generated by themselves and to formulate strategies to minimise the amount produced, as opposed to simply collecting waste for recycling. We anticipate a performance of excellence under this heading in the years to come given your track record to date in every other respect. The race against waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

Tidiness:

Signage is in the most clean and well maintained. Well done on your upgrading work on two signs, which works well. We did not observe the dual language missing entrance signs at the entrance to the village which maybe an oversight on our part. These are obviously important and we hope you get them after all your effort.

Generally over head wires require removal but trees screen some here. Perhaps what needs most improvement is the in the old catholic chapel grounds on the Killansford road. The entrance to the graveyard has a bungalow beside whose front yard requires maintenance.

Traffic management is good and traffic noise is reduced by planting. The new school could do with a fresh

coat of paint.

Residential Areas:

There appears to be no housing developments built in recent years, except for those on the Old School road. These properties were well maintained but landscaping and care is not as good as the rest of the village. Houses in the village are surrounded by parkland with lovely landscaping and trees. Well done on the new fencing in the Glebe house.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Presentation of all roads is excellent, as is the street in the centre with beautiful dry stone walls, framing boundaries in most cases. The presentation of the village centre is of a high standard. On School road we note and welcome your intention to do works on the Old School. We hope that traditional features such as sliding casement windows would be restored. The property should have good dry stone boundary walls and suitable landscaping.

General Impression:

Well done on your questionnaire and the good results which seem to have motivated your committee. Your village has a great historical and archaeological significance from medieval times. It should perhaps be "sold" as this for purely economic reasons. We would suggest that you contact the conservation and heritage office on Carlow County Council if you require additional advice, funding, etc. The village generally has a beautiful grand tradition since early times. This is fully expressed by its simple landscaping. Well done to all involved.