

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloverhill** Ref: **1425**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **195**
Category: **A** Date(s): **11/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	195

Overall Development Approach:

Cloverhill was entered as part of the drive by SuperValu to work with communities to approve the environmental standards of their areas through participation in the National TidyTowns Competition. Areas were entered on the basis that they fall within the catchment area of the nearest SuperValu store and this 'baseline assessment' is intended to provide a basis on which progress could be made over the coming years through partnership with residents, businesses and local agencies. As such it should not be interpreted as a critique of the area but rather an opportunity for everybody to work together to make their hometown a better place to work, live and visit. As part of SuperValu's strategic approach to sustainable development in the area, a nominal mark has been given to reflect this. Further marks will be awarded in future years where more tangible TidyTowns structures are developed and local environmental plans prepared and implemented.

The Built Environment:

Travelling on the main road to Cavan from Clones one enters the small hamlet of Cloverhill and St John's Church of Ireland Church gives a striking visual impact. This elegant architectural style Church (1856) of cut stone has a neat spire. Across the road at the cross is situated The Olde Post Inn, which is advertised as an award winning restaurant. This is an attractive building made up of cut stone walls that has intervals of red brick. Situated near the pub is Cavan Roofing, which resembles an old furniture store. Old doors and other building material are stacked against the wall of this building. On the main road there is the Church of Ireland disused house. Down a side road one comes across Statoil depot.

Landscaping:

There is little formal landscaping in the hamlet, with a margin of grass cut along the main road, and the grass is left longer in near the fence. St John's Church graveyard is landscaped majestically with trim and tidy weed free lawns, nice trees, shrubs and flowers. The church is surrounded by a fine three foot high stone wall

capped in a round fashion with similar stones. The entrance has an impressive wrought iron feature on top of recessed stone walls, and has a matching wrought iron gate. Outside the entrance the pavement is made up of cobble lock bricks.

The Olde Post restaurant is landscaped in unique style with hanging baskets and window boxes of a variety of flowers, and it is surrounded by suitable trees and shrubs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is a great cover of established trees and ditches around the village, which makes the area a haven for wildlife. It could be interesting to conduct a study of the habitats of the wildlife in Cloverhill.

Litter Control:

There was only small bits of litter present, mainly along the grass margins of the road down to Statoil. But, even small quantities of litter mar the visual impact of small hamlets.

Waste Minimisation:

Without details of ongoing community projects, it was difficult to assess the extent of progress being made under this category and I would look forward to seeing whether progress has in fact been made on future assessments. However taking into account the existing council facilities and SuperValu's own commitment in this area, I believe a nominal mark is appropriate for this year. There are however plenty of ways in which local communities can assist in tackling this growing problem and many useful tips are contained in the Race Against Waste community booklet available from the Tidy Towns Unit in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Tidiness:

The disused house belonging to the Church of Ireland is in need of attention as there was lots of weeds, nettles and briars around it. There is a rusty galvanised shed near a fine bungalow on the Cavan road. An entrance to a site on the Statoil road was blocked off with the placing there of the dilapidated trailer of an articulated lorry. Cavan Roofing was presented in an untidy fashion.

Residential Areas:

The white painted dormer house with red doors and white windows was very attractive, it was set off very well with a random stone design wall, and was bedecked with fine shrubs and flowers. Another house was of similar design to the pub and parish hall, and was well presented. It would appear that these houses were part of the Cloverhill estate at one time. There were two well maintained houses on the side road. On the Cavan road there was a neat bungalow, and further out there was a magnificent residence with extensive gardens and lawns the splendour of which would rival any similar residence anywhere. A private play area for the children of the house was so large it resembled a public playground. Across the road there is an impressive entrance to Rockwood house

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Cavan main road passes through the village on to Clones, it is a very busy road and I soon became aware that it was dangerous and wondered why there is not a speed limit in place there. The grass margin was cut short on the main road and the hamlet is well signposted. The old entrance to Cloverhill estate is run down. The signpost for the village on the side road was almost illegible with high grass around it.

General Impression:

There is potential in Cloverhill to do very well in the Tidy Towns competition with buildings of unique character surrounded by beautiful mature trees and farmland.