

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloone** Ref: **425**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **254**
Category: **A** Date(s): **22/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	254

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Cloone to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. You have a large committee of 10 people and that is reflective of the local support that you have for Tidy Towns. It is good that the County Council and FAS are also actively involved. Your village is a very attractive one and it was a pleasure for your adjudicator to revisit not having been here for some years. The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with your entry documentation this year. However it appears that a Plan was available for the 2006 Competition. All towns and villages are strongly recommended to have a simple straight forward 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations and agencies in the Cloone area. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that your committee and supporting organisations and agencies intend to carry out each year. It is recommended that you do not have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4 or 5 key projects are adequate. In November of each year your Tidy Towns Plan should then be advanced by a further year and the year coming to an end can then be dropped from the Plan.

The Built Environment:

The repainting of the Community Centre has been highly successful. Together with the painting and the excellent landscaping here this makes for a good presentation. However the side wall at the road to Lakeview Estate needs to be painted. The new stone boundary wall at the School was examined and this adds to the character of the village. Good signage was noted at Dohertys and the nearby Creegans premises also caught the eye. Good landscaping in front of these premises is effective. At Tiernans what stands out here is the very simple yet effective signage. The old school needs to be repainted and the guttering repaired.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is one of the keynote aspects of the village of Cloone and you have put great effort into this aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition. The planting of Roses, shrubs and Heathers at the school blends well with the new stone wall. However some weed growth was noted in the planted area at the foot of the wall. The school building itself was excellently presented and the many window boxes were much admired. The bedding plants at the long landscaped bed looked well on the day of adjudication. On the southern approach the landscaping at the bridge is simple and effective and fine for such a rural area. Excellent landscaping was again noted across the road from the Community Centre. Your heavy use of landscaping is so effective because it helps to 'anchor' the village in its beautiful surrounding rural countryside. The mature landscaped area at the old Cemetery entrance is being well maintained.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your work with the Gun Club in regard to wildlife conservation is welcomed. In many towns and villages wildlife is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making the Cloone area even more wildlife friendly. The new Biodiversity Award that is now part of the Tidy Towns Competition should be considered by your Committee for 2008. If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit the Cloone area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year. Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be to draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. Ultimately your objective is to encourage the existing wildlife to stay in your area and encourage new species to move in. This can only be done by creating an awareness of the feeding and shelter needs of the various species in the area. It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved. As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in the Cloone area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

Your litter clean up days are obviously effective as litter control in the village was good on adjudication day. A little litter was noted in the landscaped area opposite the Community Centre. On the road into Lakeview estate litter was also present in larger quantities. Is the village still being promoted as a litter free village year round?

Waste Minimisation:

The segregation of your litter at clean-ups is a great first step in waste minimisation, as is the development by the School of a composting facility. The Race Against Waste booklet circulated to all Tidy Towns Committee in 2006 has many ideas on waste reduction that may be of help to your committee.

Tidiness:

Weed growth was noted at the roadside kerbing by the old School. Watch out for weed and long grass growth that is developing behind the roadside timber fencing on the southern approach to the village. At the old Churchyard long weed and grass growth needs to be removed from the area around the gates. An untidy area with heaps of earth was noted in the area between the old school and the Graveyard car park above. Some slight vandalism was noted on the smaller of the Humbert signs opposite the Church. Have you considered having your field gates painted in a coordinated colour scheme? The plans for the possible under-grounding of overhead cables will hopefully become a reality.

Residential Areas:

On the approach from the southern side to Cloone the presentation of private houses was generally of a high standard and some good private landscaping also featured here. Some road boundary walls could do with repainting. Again good private landscaping is a strong feature of Lakeview Estate. In the village centre excellent presentation of private property with fresh painting and window boxes and tubs makes a major contribution to Cloone. Good presentations also caught the eye of the approach from the north.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The wooden fencing on the northern side of Cloone that has been painted looked really well, but what a lot of fencing there is to paint! The blue village name signs look really well but on the southern approach the area around the white village sign needed further attention in terms of presentation. The cobble lock paving in the village looks well but some weed growth is appearing in some places. On the Garvagh approach the grass had not been cut on the verges. On the left hand side on the northern approach to the village the area leading up to the village sign and fencing on the left needed attention. Your entry documentation did make the point that little work had been done on approach roads due to the sewerage scheme.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Cloone for adjudication purposes and the adjudicator would like to wish you well in your Tidy Towns plans for 2008.