

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clogherhead** Ref: **917**
County: **Louth** Mark: **221**
Category: **C** Date(s): **23/06/2007**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2007 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 34 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 28 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 30 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 19 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 30 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 8 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 26 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 26 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 221 |

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome back to the tidy towns competition and in the view of the adjudicator, it is encouraging to see such a positive return for Clogherhead. According to your entry form that there are currently 14 members on the Committee – this is very impressive as it illustrates a level of enthusiasm that will serve you well in the competition. It is also very positive to see that other Residents Associations in Clogherhead are also involved as these will provide a useful resource for maintaining their own residential areas. The Committee are also to be congratulated on involving the local scout group in local beach cleans and involving the local school in the National Spring Clean. This is important as the tidy towns competition always looks to involve the entire community. The Committee is to be commended on its co-operation with the County Council, Louth LEADER and local businesses. These contacts will provide very valuable support going forward. The involvement of local sports clubs should also be considered as they can also be a valuable resource in a range of areas. The adjudicator would also like to commend the Committee on a very informative and detailed entry form which clearly sets out the work undertaken to date in the tidy towns (including the hand drawn map) and proposed in the future. It is interesting to note that funding has been obtained to produce an action plan and we await this with interest. The Committee should try to include realistic time frames for the completion of projects and try not to begin too many projects in the first couple of years.

The Built Environment:

Clogherhead has undergone a significant transition in recent years due to the numbers of new residential areas and dwellings that have been constructed. However, it remains an interesting village with some lovely buildings. The Church (and the Parochial House opposite) are striking historical buildings that provides a focal point to the northern approach. The adjudicator considers the thatched cottage (on the road down to the beach) to be a lovely example of traditional architecture and it was saddening to see that there were other buildings of similar style and age in a derelict condition. These buildings are now becoming very rare in

County Louth, and this is a pity. In the case of Clogherhead, they give the village a character and distinctiveness that provides a striking contrast to the new residential developments on the outskirts of the town. It is suggested that the Committee liaise with Louth County Council on this matter and include a strategy for dealing with the derelict sites in its action plan – a possible course of action is to seek the refurbishment rather than the demolition of these lovely old dwellings. There are a number of other very

Landscaping:

The hard work of the Committee was very visible in this category. The adjudicator was very impressed with the number of examples of good quality planting that were observed during adjudication day. Of particular note was the gorgeous planting in front of Oriel Villa – this is a credit to the committee and anyone else who was involved. A lovely landscaping space was also noted on the road down to the beach opposite the little strand restaurant which added great colour and interest and interest to this road. The planting at the junction of this road and the main street of the village is also to be commended. It is noted that local businesses are playing their part with hanging baskets noted outside a small number of commercial premises. There are a number of opportunities for planting that should be considered for inclusion in the action plan. The approach roads (when coming from the north) should be considered for landscaping / additional planting as colourful plants, shrubs and flowers can give a very positive impression to visitors of a village. The area around the anchor and the pump heading north of the town also has great potential for planting and landscaping.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The beach is tremendous facility to have in Clogherhead and the adjudicator wishes you well in your attempts to secure blue flag status. This valuable amenity should be used to its full potential as it is a haven for bird and plant life. The beach activity day is a great idea for informing the local school children. Have you considered encouraging them to research and do a survey of the plant and birdlife as a school project and the results can possibly be used to in an information board, using the funding obtained from the Heritage Council? The potential for nature walks and 'sli na slainte' here is also huge and the Committee are encouraged to explore these possibilities in their action plan and approach the relevant bodies for support and funding. The new Harbour is most impressive. At the time of the adjudication, the approach road was in poor condition, so it is assumed that the final works have yet to be completed.

Litter Control:

On the day of adjudication, it was observed that a high standard of litter control has been achieved in Clogherhead. In the view of the adjudicator, this reflects the work of the Committee and Fas in undertaking daily litter patrols, their involvement in the National Spring Clean and their vigilance shown in keeping Clogherhead litter free. The scouts are also to be commended for their work in cleaning up the beach. Keep up the good work!

Waste Minimisation:

The category of waste minimisation was introduced in 2006 and it is becoming particularly important in the competition. The bring bank beside the tennis courts was noted and the availability of these facilities is a key component in the waste minimisation strategy. However, as a lot of waste would be generated on the beach during the summer months would it be possible to have bring banks put in place on the beach or could the new litter bins provide for segregation of plastic, paper and glass waste? The Committee is encouraged to research this category in order to improve their performance in future years and to try and get all households in Clogherhead to minimise waste. This not only involves identifying potential sites for bottle banks, but also undertaking additional actions to minimise waste such as segregating and recycling the waste collected at the National Spring Clean and during litter patrols. Other positive actions would be running an awareness campaign of reducing, reusing and recycling at a local level and investigating the provision of composters to individual houses in the village. The Committee is also encouraged to provide a composting area and the resulting compost can then be used in their ongoing landscaping

Tidiness:

In general, it is considered that a reasonably good standard of tidiness has been achieved. No clutter of signage was evident in the village and all signage appeared in fairly good condition. In addition, there was no evidence of unused lamp poles or posts or graffiti to be found. Generally, maintenance of grassed areas and weeding appear to have taken place on a regular basis. Some areas detracted from this however, which should be prioritised for next years entry. The area around the mobile home park on the way in from Termonfeckin is quite poor as its quite overgrown and weedy. The area in front of the shop for car parking also has an untidy appearance. The area around the Dragon House takeaway was in poor condition with weeds and discarded rubbish giving an untidy appearance. Towards the north of the village, a lot of the verges were not maintained to a high standard and this looked untidy.

Residential Areas:

The appearance of the residential areas in Clogherhead was generally quite high. There were some examples of very well maintained and landscaped estates. Perhaps the best estate was Father O'Donnell Park and this is not surprising given its award winning history. However, there were some other good examples too like John Kirk Park, Father McCooey Terrace and Castle View. The Beeches and Oriel Cove were also quite nice. Hill Crest has a lot of potential, but on the day of adjudication it appeared very poorly maintained with weed growth noticeable. It was noted that a number of new housing estates to the north of the village had no name plates and it is suggested that this is included as a priority in your action plan.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approaches to the Clogherhead are generally nice, particularly with the gorgeous backdrop of the sea and the beach in view. Some improvements could be made to roadside verges on the approach road from the north and also from the south (Termonfeekin) which had the appearance of poor maintenance. Weeds and poor surfacing were also noticeable on the road down to the beach.

General Impression:

This is a very impressive first year back in the competition for Clogherhead. With an action plan detailing the projects to be undertaken, the adjudicator has no doubt that the village and Committee will enjoy success in this competition in future years.