

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloneygowan** Ref: **405**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **221**
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	24
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	221

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the entry to Tidy Towns 2007. The entry form had no information for several sections and it is noted that the level of participation is low. It is good that Cloneygowan nevertheless stays in the competition as involvement from the community will be encouraged with continued efforts. A basic 3 year plan should be drawn up to help focus on achievable goals, and it is better to be organised on a realistic basis of what can be done with the resources available. Cloneygowan has potential to do better. Seek help from others in the community and engage with the local authority and other agencies to put a plan together and progress will follow.

The Built Environment:

Village green looks very well – stone walled bed and lovely stone sign, beautiful yellow roses in barrels outside farm house – picnic benches here as well
Building works going on beside gulberts shop, some other properties could do with paint and trimming outside. The built environment has some areas of neglect which brings down the overall appearance of the village.

Murphys bar should replace the plastic sign

Another lovely farm house and old buildings at back left derelict – site notice – 9 houses to be built here.

Community Hall looks great with its red door

Old schoolhouse a fine building. Is Direens open? It looks unattractive as if its closed down

Through pillars into private residence and farm buildings – very beautiful grand residence, with tower or old

building at back. Some village heritage info would be good – what used to be here? Could be an interesting history

Landscaping:

Village green very nice, lots trees around, stone circle bed, all houses around smart and neat, lot of work in front of one, wonder were these trees here last year – bit bare inside bit, It would be good to do some raised beds on green also – little beds around edge.

Many private gardens done with pride –

And row of cottages made efforts to put in stone beds and trees

There is potential to do some nice landscaping in new estate, which has been started with trees and benches included. Working with the residents here keep the green area maintained and to develop attractive feature which could be seen from roadside

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Ian's nature reserve sounded curious but despite seeking out the location noted on map, could not be found. Is it being promoted? What is involved? Some signage or further info on this would be appropriate. The road in that direction is not frequently travelled. Info boards as a project with the school?

The school garden is very attractive with a beautiful amount of flowers and trees. No doubt very vibrant and wonderful place in there.

Shrubs bearing berries and seeds for insects and birdlife are to be encouraged

Litter Control:

Cloneygowan village is totally litter free at time of adjudication, even back areas. Pity there is no information in this section of entry to inform about litter control measures.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling banks opposite the school are in good condition. Are they used to capacity? Are litter picks segregated to recycle materials such as aluminium cans? Is the school a green school. There are many projects could be undertaken to reduce, reuse and recycle waste to earn points in this category. Refer to the Race Against Waste guide for info

Tidiness:

Verges, kerbs and roadsides are in good condition. There is no litter anywhere. There is new street furniture on the green. The village is generally tidy but what takes away from it are buildings under construction with temporary frontages

The phone box needs painting badly, and grotto could be brightened up with plantings.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas are fine in general, very clean, in pleasant crescent and some new houses in terrace very smart. In front of some the hedges need improved

Some lovely painted cottages.

Some individual private gardens are very nice and obvious pride and care taken there

The new housing estate has not full occupancy yet but those who are here have done things nicely. There is an extensive green with some trees and couple benches and nice trees separating from road. This is a work in progress, which will look bare until it matures. Entrance signs with estate name good in due course

There are new developments proposed on site of old buildings, which will be a pity if the character of the original is lost. It is good however that there will be new energy coming to the area. Potential new recruits for Tidy Towns from new developments and new estate.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from portarlinton is very tidy, neat grass verges, sign clearly visible, good paths. The bridge on other approach is in a dreadful state and should be painted and bollards straightened and weeded. Back areas were clear.

General Impression:

Cloneygowan is a nice, tidy village, centred around the village green on road between Tullamore and Portarlington. There is some development work going on, and a vibrant school which implies a good future for the village. There is potential but it is important to work with the school and the wider community to get more support.