

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloonloo** Ref: **1412**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **183**
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	183

Overall Development Approach:

Cloonloo is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition. Your village enjoys a setting against a backdrop of deciduous woodland which is charming; Cloonloo has a wonderful relaxed ambience which is most attractive. The woodland located along one side of the village is nicely complemented by the vista of open fields along the other. Your proximity to Lough Gara is important, perhaps a walk to this amenity might be developed to Sli na Slainte standards. Your next step now should be to prepare a three year planned work programme identifying what you would like to achieve over the next three years and perhaps incorporating some of the suggestions made in this report. Your plan should be submitted each year with a rural place map identifying your achievements in any given year. Good luck for the future.

The Built Environment:

St. Joseph's Hall is nicely painted and the children's swing and the amenity Well behind the hall were noted also. The tennis courts looked a little rough and weedy, the adjudicator wonders if they are in use, if so they might be presented to a better standard and if not perhaps they could be put to some other use such as a hard landscaped area. The church is an attractive building and the adjudicator wonders if the bell tower here is a little weather stained. The 1873 plaque here is nice touch.

Landscaping:

Your stands of maturing Rowan trees are quite stunning with their beautiful coloured berries and are complemented by flower displays in container plants and shrubberies, well done. The stone grotto is an attractive feature however its rusted railings should be painted. Your stone inscribed poem "Taken Not For Granted" is charming. Try to ensure that all species of trees and other plants used in future landscaping programmes are native to the surrounding countryside.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Stretches of wild hedgerow are an attractive feature of Cloonloo and outbursts of wildflower were noted also particularly foxglove and montebretia. It might be a good idea to encourage the growth of wildflowers in verges but ensure that only native species are used as others can be too vigorous. As suggested above you might investigate the flora and fauna of nearby Lough Gara and perhaps create a nature trail to the lake and back with the help of information panels depicting the survey results.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control was excellent in Cloonloo on the day of adjudication; none was noted, well done. In your submission each year give details of your litter management activities for example do you participate in the National Spring Clean Week, do you have regular litter patrols, is your litter segregated? This type of information can earn additional marks.

Waste Minimisation:

It might be a good idea to locate a recycling point within the village. You need find ways of minimizing the amount of waste produced in Cloonloo and with this in mind a waste audit might be undertaken for and by the community. A community composting initiative might be a valuable undertaking also as a method of waste minimisation.

Tidiness:

The overall appearance of Cloonloo was one of tidiness however it is important to keep weed growth in check particularly along the curbs of footpaths and at the base of walls. A few incidental entrances looked a little untidy.

Residential Areas:

Older, more established houses were admired for their attractive gardens and boundary walls. Work in progress was noted to at least two new developments and we anticipate a high standard being achieved here also. Encourage residents to take responsibility for the areas outside of their own walls and to become involved in the Tidy Towns initiative.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Name plates were attractive and roadside verges which run the length of the village were neatly presented. The loose stone wall which runs to the inside of grass verges is an attractive feature however it was overgrown, it should be revealed to highlight its beauty. Perhaps the road to Wynnes View might be incorporated into the presentation of Cloonloo.

General Impression:

Cloonloo is an attractive rural village with a lot of charm which complements its woodland surrounding beautifully. It is important to retain this rural ambience.