

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clane** Ref: **368**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **252**
Category: **D** Date(s): **09/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	252

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you Clane for your colourful and informative year plan from this year – 2008 to 2011. We note also, that you have set out a timetable for the work ahead and that you have a busy committee of 10 volunteers. I hope you achieve these aims and you are well aware that you need to increase input of effort from others including mushrooming residents' associations and school authorities through the Green Schools Programme.

Well done on one member being appointed to serve on schools committees; well done on your policies to circulate everyone with leaflets etc. Also, well done on your website on recycling. Your plans are admirable on setting up links with three offices in the Kildare County together with other agencies and businesses for assistance.

The Built Environment:

Clane is richly blessed with a timely historic heart such as the old abbey in the centre of the town and the ancient friary and church of Ireland church being excellently presented. The schools were also very beautifully maintained.

Another attractive building was located on the Kilcock Road junction with Main Street, Manzors. The Business Park on the Kilcock Road is well presented generally and shop fronts in the Main Street are generally mixed with quality.

Well done on your new heritage trail, which should be successful.

We also noted that you have new village amenities including a new hotel and car park which should be screened from the adjacent friary building. The G.A.A pitch is an excellent amenity in an expanding town.

There is one derelict site in the central area, which detracts from the stone church beside it on Main Street. There is some dereliction elsewhere whereas bad, it does not constitute a general problem.

Landscaping:

This has become an encouraging aspect of your entry with most approach roads being extremely attractive and with a wide range of native plant and trees being used throughout the town. The roundabout planting on the Celbridge Road was of a high quality; however your screen hedge boundary of the Friary and hotel has not worked and is essential that the rather overbearing building and car park should be softened with more trees and shrubs.

Also, the shopping centre on the Celbridge Road requires softening by planting

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Riverside Park is an exciting idea. On the day of adjudication, it was not looking its best, mainly because of appalling weather, over which you have no control! We note also, your extra work undertaken for the bird survey. We await your work to the stone. You are indeed fortunate to have a lovely natural facility so close to the town. Well done too on the 'Sli Na Slainte' walk.

Litter Control:

There was little evidence of litter throughout the town. The bring banks were also tidy on the Prosperous Road at the G.A.A ground.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on your composting activities and recycling to date. The adjudicator however, would recommend that a waste survey should be carried out in accordance with TidyTowns publications. We would recommend that you carry out a waste audit described in the Race Against Waste booklet. You should perhaps organise a Seminar to inform yourselves and local residents and businesses as to what can be achieved in this area. Waste Minimisation is much more than recycling.

Tidiness:

The town in general gives a tidy impression. However areas of dereliction, like the site beside the church detract from this. There are also some areas on a couple of approach roads which need attention, including the Prosperous and Celbridge Roads.

Public road signs were generally clean, but some need repair and replacement. Large hoarding signs in many cases, were overbearing in presentation sheets. As elsewhere in the County roads and streets are extremely busy, and we were hopeful for progression on discussions for a traffic management plan which we think is essential.

Weed growth was also at a minimum.

Residential Areas:

These were of a generally good standard throughout the village, with attractive entrances, good landscaping and bi-lingual stones in many cases. The favourite of the adjudicator was an older development on the road to the left of your map across from the Park View which was set in a beautiful display of silver birch trees. The building was a beautiful, gleaming terraced house in pristine condition.

Well done

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Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road approaches generally were of a high standard, which was your primary target this year. Well done on same! The Prosperous and Celbridge Roads, and the road to the left of the map are still patchy in presentation. The new planted roundabout on the Celbridge Road is excellent.

General Impression:

Clane is a historic town, with old historic buildings, and a potential for tourism. It is a town of potential and vast

growth, which has its own problems for providing a unified central village area.