

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clones** Ref: **710**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **225**
Category: **C** Date(s): **01/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

You are congratulated on the submission of a detailed application form and clear map. The provision of supporting material is always useful. Your three year plan is comprehensive, however it appears to have began in 2006 and is due for completion presumably in 2008 - please ensure that the information listed indicates what has been achieved to date, problems you've encountered during the implementation of the 2006 and 2007 work schedule (and there are bound to be some!). Your committee of eight is quite small given the population on Clones. However, it would appear the the ongoing support and mentoring from a variety of local agencies is invaluable. Similarly your cooperation with Monaghan County Council, the National School and Supervalu is lauded. Have you considered developing a Junior TidyTowns Committee?

The Built Environment:

The 'new' aspect of Clones is certainly setting a very high standard and clean lines and a fresh appearance are the order of the day! The Fire Station, Library and surrounding area and the new school were all greatly admired. Other premises that were particularly well presented included Fortview N.S., Creighton Hotel, The Lennard Arms, The Round Tower Bar, The Cassandra Hand Centre, The Technology Park Building and the Social Welfare Office. In addition to this the sympathetic extension to the Presbyterian Church was greatly admired. Throughout town there is a considerable variance in standards of presentation. As indicated in your application for dereliction and vacant properties continue to pose a problem but this is the case in most regional towns so don't be disheartened! The ongoing work at the Courthouse on the Scotshouse Road is most impressive and we look forward to its completion for TidyTowns 2009. Fermanagh St, on the whole is well presented and street lights were admired - property owners should be reminded, however, that the rear of the buildings are visible and this should be taken into consideration when being repainted. The Diamond as ever displays a wonderful streetscape and the water feature provides a welcome focal point. The Thomas the Tank Engine mural at Angel House is an unusual and well presented feature. The buildings at CP Tyres were

admired for their crisp appearance but unfortunately the railing badly needed a coat of paint. The wall of the GAA is very disappointing.

Landscaping:

Pretty Flower beds were admired at the Diamond. The Car Park at the new Council Building is pristine in its presentation. The planting at the traffic lights near the Texaco Station provides good coverage and softens this junction. Incidental window boxes and hanging baskets were also admired throughout the town. As mentioned by last years adjudicator we look forward to the landscaping at the Technology Park.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Adjudicator was unable to locate Cherry Park and the Wildlife Garden despite a number of attempts and quite an amount of time spent in the area. Please give clear directions to next years adjudicator as to its exact location. You are commended on the planting of trees and this should be continued through the years. Similarly the planting of bulbs indicates that you are providing interest and colour throughout the year and not just for the Tidy Towns Competition.

Litter Control:

Overall the level of litter control in Clones was quite good on the day of adjudication. The Playground and the recycling centre both had a scattering of litter. Unfortunately someone had dumped bags of rubbish in a back lane close to the Cassandra Hand Centre. Otherwise an odd piece was spotted here and there.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling point was in use on the morning of adjudication. Congratulations is extended to St. Tiernach's Primary on achieving their second Green Flag!

Tidiness:

The main problem as mentioned earlier with regard to tidiness is dereliction and this will take time to remedy. The twinning sign on the Cavan and Scotshouse roads were partially covered by overgrowth. The Playground and Ball Alley were neatly presented as was the car park at Ulster Canal Stores. In general attention to detail is critical to gaining points in this section and property owners (commercial and residential) should be encouraged to paint boundary walls and railings. Graffiti was also noted on the hoarding close to the playground.

Residential Areas:

A number of established residences were admired on the Newbliss Road for their well presented gardens. Hopefully new developments here will be finished to the same high standard. Leger Crescent was for the most part immaculate with regard to paintwork and overall neatness. Carn Dun was admired. The terraces row attached to the Creighton Hotel looked great. Many of the residences on the Newtownbutler road looked well and a red-bricked detached house was most impressive.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Newbliss road was for the most part neat in its presentation. A number of areas throughout the town centre displayed outbreaks of kerbside weeds. The Newtownbutler Road on the other hand was virtually weed free. Commercial property owners should be encouraged to maintain side entrances and alleyways to the same standard as their facade.

General Impression:

Clones is clearly a town in transition and you are congratulated on your positive attitude. You will continue to progress steadily in the Tidy Towns Competition. Keep going!