

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloghan** Ref: **617**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **221**
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	9
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	221

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks to Cloghan Community Development Association for your clear and concise entry. The TidyTowns Plan was of particular interest. You would appear to have a particularly strong relationship with the local community. You would also appear to communicate well with Offaly County Council, Leader, FAS and the West Offaly Partnership. Your participation with the local national school's board of management is also commendable. Submissions in relation to the future County Development Plan are always to be encouraged.

The Built Environment:

The Catholic Church is tucked in away off the main street, which seems to be a particular feature of this area as this adjudicator came across another one in the vicinity. It looked quite fresh on the day. There are quite a few industrial premises whose yards should be screened from public view. The National School looked fine but its boundary wall badly needed repainting. Clancy's Bar was fine. The Garda Station was fresh. The charming Parochial Hall on the Athlone Road was admired. The Top Garage looked fine incorporating the Post Office and Spar. An empty site nearby created a bad impression. Work in relation to the enhancement of facades of buildings is a good initiative, as is that in relation to derelict sites. We look forward to seeing your proposed work on footpaths in the future.

Landscaping:

The part at the crossroads was beautifully maintained with its water feature, bird sculpture and magnificent planting. There was also attractive planting at the crossroads and roundabout but the adjudicator couldn't help but wonder could it somehow be softer as it seems quite harsh for its central important location in the village at its core central area? Continued maintenance of the landscaped areas at the roundabouts and church are commendable. The support given to Killourney Cemetery Group is encouraging. The proposed

planting of indigenous hedging is commendable and we look forward to seeing your new name plaques. An attractive landscaped area to a new housing estate on the Birr road was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The support you give the work at Loch Cloghan is commendable, as is the proposed expansion of the walkway in this locality. The encouragement of bees through suitable tree-planting on Castle Street is an interesting project.

Litter Control:

Work with the residents association's spring clean and the area litter warden in relation to litter issues at Hill Road are all commendable. The weekly litter patrol is a good idea. Proposals for a Tidy Schools Initiative are good ones. We look forward to the installation of litter bins. Careful consideration should be given to their locations.

Waste Minimisation:

The upgrading of the recycling facilities on the Tullamore Road is a good project. The awareness campaign is a good idea. How do you deal with waste and clippings produced by your own activities? Have you considered Composting Workshops for the local community?

Tidiness:

Weed control was a distinct problem on the day. It was very weedy to the front of the stone boundary wall to a small housing estate on the Belmont Road although its attractive circular metal sculpture was admired. Weeds were apparent at the crossroads on the Belmont Road and more weeds - both dead and alive - were evident on the Tullamore Road. Dereliction was a problem and a derelict cottage was noted on the Athlone Road, as well as that mentioned previously. Signage enhancement in conjunction with the County Council sounds like an interesting project. The audit of signs was a good way of tackling this issue. Traffic calming measures are always a good idea given the ongoing traffic accidents taking place throughout the country.

Residential Areas:

The Gables B&B looks very fresh. Housing estates were generally inconsistent - some were quite neglected while others appeared well maintained in particular the new ones. Houses on the Shannonbridge Road were generally fine. An attractive blue house at the crossroads with a flat arch door and side-lights had retained its sash windows and this is indeed commendable. The open space to a housing estate on the Tullamore Road was very overgrown but a new estate beyond was well maintained with its tree planting, lighting, well-cut open space and stone ready for the nameplate. A yellow cottage opposite, with a rose garden, was greatly admired. The new Cluain Spideoga Estate has a stone entrance area but was not yet complete on the day. The cottages nearby were well maintained but the stone walling to the front sported some weeds and grass. Proposals in relation to the Hill Road estate are looked forward to. Work with the local Area Litter Warden in regard to litter issues in this area is commendable.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roadsides were very overgrown on the Shannonbridge Road and the Belmont Road although the attractive stone walls on this road were greatly admired. There were quite a few weeds to the kerbs on the Tullamore Road. Work on traffic calming is commendable, particularly given the number of deaths and injuries on our roads in recent years. Planting of indigenous hedging is a good project.

General Impression:

Cloghan Community Development Association obviously has a clear idea of how it would like to improve its town and we wish you luck with all of this work. There are a few problem areas, which need to be resolved.