

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonbullogue** Ref: **618**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **287**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	287

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks to Clonbullogue Development Association for your clear and concise application form and map, which were very useful on Adjudication Day. You would appear to have a large level of communication with the local community, and local agencies such as Offaly County Council, Leader, FAS and the Oak Partnership. Have you put together a work programme? This document need only be a few pages long and could even be in bullet form, giving details of your plans for each year. We read with interest of your work in relation to car parking, due to the problems associated with people parking on the grass areas and wish you all the best with this worthwhile work. Clonbullogue is, as you say, a very busy village and the problems associated with this are difficult to tackle. We wish you luck with all your work.

The Built Environment:

The Health Centre in the old school looked very well on the day. The Post Office was extremely fresh. Although McEvoy's was shut, it looked well. The School was very fresh and the Church and its statuary looked very well. St. Broughan's Hall looked well as did St. Kevin's Church of Ireland. The Old Forge building is a marvellous asset to have so close to village and congratulations on its retention. Work in relation to the enhancement of the interior of the Parish Hall was read of with interest and this facility must be of great use and help to the local community. We look forward to seeing the results of the external works in this location. The painting of walls, kerbs and the bridge is all to the good. Development of the garage and old grocery shop will hopefully enhance these areas-these were noted on the day and looked fine. The bell and support to the Catholic church should be repainted before next year's competition.

Landscaping:

There were magnificent tubs filled with flowers throughout the village. The village green area at Woodlawn looked extremely well with its fountain, rose beds and well maintained grassy lawns. A lovely area at the

waterside with the mill wheel was admired on the day. The planting of beech hedging and honeysuckle will be of great benefit to future generations of townspeople and visitors alike. We applaud the ongoing maintenance of the riverside walk. The development of the bank on the Edenderry Road is a worthwhile endeavour. Replacement of dead trees, further tree planting and the further development of the riverside banks are all worthwhile projects. The involvement of the Figule Manor residents is to be encouraged, as the more support you can garner the better, in relation to furthering your cause.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The planting of indigenous whitethorn along river banks is a worthwhile project, as is the development of a swan habitat in this location. The creating of a wildlife area opposite the Parish Hall is to be applauded. Good luck with your future plans in relation to the wild duck hatching service and the provision of nesting boxes.

Litter Control:

The involvement of the local school in your clean ups is to be applauded. We wish you all the best with the new enclosed litter bins – hopefully they will have the desired result of discouraging household waste.

Waste Minimisation:

The popularity of the recycling facilities is heartening to hear. We were also encouraged to hear that you are encouraging the local community to use the facility at Edenderry. The segregation of waste in your own work is to be applauded. We look forward to the inclusion of paper and clothes bins at the recycling facility. Do you have a problem with vandalism, and is this why you are concerned about the fire risk involved in this? Have you considered the issues of composting – the results of your own clippings and the organic waste of the local community?

Tidiness:

The village generally looked neat and ordered on the day although some weeding was necessary to the front of the school. The discouragement of fly-posting and graffiti is to be applauded. The maintenance of signage, posts and kerbs is also a worthwhile exercise, as these are areas that are often overlooked by towns and villages. We wish you the best in relation to your request for funding from Offaly County Council.

Residential Areas:

Woodlawn looked very well at the centre of the village with its well maintained grass and lawns as mentioned elsewhere in this report. A lovely farmhouse by the village nameplate on the Portarlington Road was greatly admired for its traditional appearance and lovely stone walling. An attractive garden was admired opposite the school. Figule Manor is a new estate with its newly planted trees coming along nicely. Don't forget boundary walls and gates when considering presentation in this category of the competition - some on the Rathangan Road looked a little neglected on the day. However, some very fresh houses near the village centre on this road were greatly admired. Church Farm is a most charming house and contributes well to this category. Work in relation to the landscaping of residential areas was noted and is all to the good. Proposed work to the improvement of lawn areas sounds like a sensible proposal. The involvement of the relevant residents in the maintenance of their own areas is to be encouraged - their participation can be of great help to you in your work.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Signage was quite grubby along approach roads - in particular the nameplate on the Portarlington Road, directional signs at the school and directional signs at the village centre were also very rusty. Besides this approach roads looked quite well. The one from Rathangan just be careful of bird nesting times when clipping hedgerows. The Portarlington Road is most attractive with mature overhanging trees although its road surface was a little bit rough. Road works were taking place in the village centre in front of the Post Office. The Edenderry Road was well maintained and had attractive planting. The new parking spaces at the Woodlawn Estate will be of great benefit to all and continued provision of parking areas is encouraging. You mention upgrading of the street in the village centre but give no more detail in your submission-is landscaping planned or just a re-surfacing?

General Impression:

Clonbullogue is a most attractive village. It was a pleasure to visit after many years absence and the adjudicator did indeed enjoy the natural presentation of the area which you are right to treasure!