

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clashmore** Ref: **243**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **247**
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	247

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for the very concise and to the point application complete with village map with relevant places of interest marked clearly.

It has been sometime since the adjudicator has been in Clashmore and despite obvious changes in those intervening years it still has not lost its rural Waterford charm.

As stated in last years report Clashmore has undergone fairly significant change over the last number of years. It has coped well with that change.

The committee of 10 is to be commended for its good relationships with both the local authority and most importantly the local community, as a consequence it is very evident that they value the work you do for the village.

Good to note also that you have fostered excellent links with school and this will reap benefits in the years ahead.

Your positive comments about the competition were noted and we thank you for those.

The Built Environment:

There was something very attractive about the streetscape of the village and it may have to do with the excellent manner in which most properties were presented, nice mix of different colours with suitable signage. It is sad to report that there are three major properties at the grotto end of the village had for sale signs hopefully this is not a foretaste of what may be facing rural Ireland.

The main public buildings were in good condition, the RC Church commands a prominent position, church, grounds and the graveyard were maintained well so full marks to those entrusted with their upkeep.

It was noted that the National School was being refurbished or expanded, there must be an upgrading of

schools programme ongoing in Waterford as this was one of a number of similar works observed by the adjudicator during the course of adjudication.

The Heritage Centre is nice building, well maintained and extremely important in that one can learn about the local history of the area.

The Old NS site is well preserved and the Grotto, which is the focal point at what could be called the bottom of the Village, looked well.

The colour scheme, old plaster signage and tasteful flower arrangement gave Kennedy's, which now seems to be a private residence, a special appeal.

Well done to the owners for refurbishing it in such a manner.

Beresford's is indeed a fine premises with the old arch leading in to a side entrance no doubt; the colour scheme is different from the norm.

The Deise Bar is also a nice premises but just needs a little paint touch here and there on the window sills.

The GAA Grounds were very well maintained and one noted that club colours are similar to Mayo and if not mistaken also appear on the Village Pump.

If you have not done so already do lobby the local public representatives to have the wires ducted underground and have new street lighting installed in the core area.

The road surface at the junction near Deise Bar is a little rough and should be earmarked for re surfacing next season.

Landscaping:

The work ongoing at the re designed Orchard was noted and this will be a very good addition to other well appointed planting arrangements that the villages has in place.

Residents of the village have made great efforts to add to the good standard of public landscaping and there were examples of excellent gardens, individual planters fronting properties to be seen in the village and at its extremities.

The Grotto has a good practical planting arrangement with manageable shrubs and flowering annuals for colour.

One was particularly impressed with the Green on the river bank at the Stack simple but effective with well appointed seats to rest up at.

The Raheen River walk has a myriad of plants and wildflowers and is worth a visit in its own right, it is the adjudicator's ambition to return and re visit a number of places in this part of Waterford, Clashmore is on the list

Overall a good standard of landscaping was observed and you have resisted the urge to over beautify the place.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Raheen River walk as mentioned in the last section is worth a visit in its own right just to observe plant life alone.

Bird boxes were observed on trees along the way, this of course is one of the most practical ways to contribute to wildlife conservation.

The commissioning and positioning of the new fauna and flora notice board by the committee is to be commended, it is in an ideal location and offers the visitor an insight to the wildlife of the area. Thanks for the prominence given to the Irish language.

As the citation says "Truly a place to find oneself", note that there is one small little typo that needs to be corrected.

For this initiative alone you are awarded an increase in marks on last year.

Litter Control:

Litter control was to a very acceptable standard, very little noticed on the day except for a few stray plastic bottles and wrappers.

Your voluntary groups are doing very good work on the ground.

Involvement with the schools will play dividends, as kids when encouraged properly will react in a positive manner, well that's my experience anyway but I can only talk from sports coaching perspective.

Keep promoting the importance of good litter control to the forefront within the local community.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a category where you reacted in a positive manner to the comments in last years report and you gain a mark for that.

Do consult with the Race Against Waste booklet which you should have or alternatively visit the website to get ideas on basic projects that could be put in place by the community as a whole.

Once again consider involving the local school children.

Tidiness:

The area around the Quick Pick shop was little cluttered and untidy and one appreciates that it's a business providing an excellent service to the community so deal with the issue sensitively.

There has been a big improvement at the Youghal road entrance and that is a positive reaction to last year's comments.

The village overall was quite tidy except for a few either derelict or unoccupied buildings, this is a nationwide problem and Clashmore is a lot better than most in this respect.

Residential Areas:

The same problem in identification of housing areas still prevails.

It was noted that a number of other towns and villages in the County had very effective wrought iron black and white name signs on housing estates.

You should, if not done so already, pursue this with Wateford County Council.

Overall group housing areas both old and new were very well maintained and blended in with the existing village structure.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrances into the village were of high standard and give a good first impression of Clashmore.

The entrance of both the Youghal road and from the Mellary end of the village had inviting welcoming signs with tidy verges and hedgerows maintained as per recommended guidelines.

Most back and side areas that were visible were well presented, but as with any town or village there were a few that were not up to standard.

All you as a committee can do is to keep promoting the positive message and keep urging all residents to make the effort.

General Impression:

Clashmore has that relaxed atmosphere that seems to have deserted other similar sized places especially those that have become satellite villages.

You as a community are lucky that the new developments have blended in well with the "old" village.

The Tidy Towns Committee has worked hard to ensure that the Village has attained a very credible standing the competition and it is to be complimented for this.

Keep up the good work and one looks forward to seeing Clashmore make further strides in the years ahead.