

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonroche** Ref: **124**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **271**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	271

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the entry form, the three year development plan and the map of the area. I note you have 20 members on your committee. It is positive, as you do, to hold monthly meetings and special event meetings. Interaction with Wexford County Council and the other agencies is worthwhile and I see the local businesses are very supportive. The local community will come on board if leadership is shown by a committee, and you are communicating well with the parishioners. It is rewarding to involve the schools as this creates an awareness of the local environment amongst the school children from a young age. It is interesting to note that your committee value the competition. Clonroche is a great place for festivals, and these can be great social occasions and create a strong community spirit. In your 2009 plan I observe that you intend to fully develop the Lime Kiln opposite the school. With respect could I urge some caution here, as Lime Kilns are protected structures and permission to do work must be obtained from the County Conservation officer attached to the county council. The news is not all bad as in some cases conservation grants are available for such work and a local structural engineer could advise you on how to proceed. Briefly, only special, mostly lime based, mortar is used, with little or no cement, and the style of the old structure must be maintained with similar types of stones. Under no circumstances could fancy stone work be done on top of the traditional built wall. I have seen fancy stonework done on Lime Kilns with disastrous consequences.

The Built Environment:

It took me a while to find the Catholic Church, as it is a small distance outside the town. Firstly could I suggest, with respect, that you could consider the erection of a signpost to this church. It was well worth looking for the church as it is a beautiful structure of elegant architectural style surrounded with a secure stone wall with some mature trees and appropriate shrubs. Carlford Nursing home looked very pretty and sported an old stone seat outside. All the business premises are maintained in very good condition and tastily decorated. I

admired the CLOCH BÀN bar and lounge and Londis. The funeral home is a good stone building. The Garda station, the Boro Inn, the footwear shop and Gala were fresh and crisp. The school on the New Ross road is a fine modern building and was freshly presented. Glanbia is a spacious factory premises that is maintained in a clean and tidy fashion. The Community Centre is a bright and colourful modern building and was maintained in a neat and tidy fashion.

Landscaping:

There are two delightful signposts for the village cut in stone on the approach roads from New Ross and Enniscorthy with some fine stretches of greens / lawns, mature trees and shrubs. There was a fine display of clean gravel outside the busy Glanbia premises with a backdrop of good shrubs and trees which reduce the visual impact of this very large building. The circular display of summer flowers surrounded by neat box hedging outside the ESB and the Spout, on a side road, in an area that is beautifully landscaped alongside a little rippling stream were admired. All of these picturesque features set a high standard for the rest of the village. The trend continues in the middle of the village with great splashes of colour and green spaces all adorned with hanging baskets, window boxes and other flower arrangements. It was a special treat to visit the Millennium Park, and if one did not know of its existence they could be attracted to admire the beautiful lawn, fine mature trees and splendid flowers with a backdrop of a vigorous copper beech hedge, all situated outside the park. There is a relaxing atmosphere here for strolling around the park, with a good concrete path all around to enjoy an array of wonderful trees and shrubs adorned with flowers. The garden furniture was of good quality with some suitable litter bins that were well serviced. The small fountain nestles peacefully where there is a stone with an inscription CLOUGHBAWN PARISH. The grass was trimmed immaculately. The public lighting is elegant. The splendour of this park would rival any similar development in Ireland.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Clonroche is a haven for the wildlife with all those great mature trees, shrubs and hedging plus all the new planting that is taking place. I admired a fine notice board at John's lane and there are descriptions of the fauna and flora to be found along the lane. I travelled down the lane in the direction of Blackstairs view and came across another notice board that displayed photographs of the great work that was done to clear out the laneway. There too I admired a raised shrubbery, and the vernacular architecture – the remains of an ancient mud built house. This is a beautiful walk and it was charming to hear the birds singing in a truly old world atmosphere.

Litter Control:

The combined efforts of school children, Fás and committee are producing very good results as only a few isolated bits of litter were seen.

Waste Minimisation:

Waste is catered for nowadays in a responsible way with Wexford County Council collecting recyclables on alternative weeks. The residents are also playing their part by using the recycling bins across from the Community Centre and I also saw some recycling bins in the yard of the Community centre

Tidiness:

I read the negative remarks by last year's adjudicator in relation to the outside of Glanbia factory and it is pleasant to find that action was taken here and the site now is in splendid condition.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates are maintained in a clean and tidy fashion and have good signage. The other houses are kept, for the most part, in very good order and some were exceptional with great boundary walls and fencing, and displayed some wonderful mature trees, shrubs and flowers.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the roads, side roads and main roads are in sound condition. There is good fencing and walls with a backdrop of scenic views and the landscaping mentioned earlier.

General Impression:

I could see the "footprints" of people that are doing great work in Clonroche, and this village has improved

considerably in the five years since I last visited the area. Congratulations to all concerned.