

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonmore** Ref: **38**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **265**
Category: **A** Date(s): **27/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	21
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	265

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Clonmore to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the very good map and most detailed entry form. This clearly detailed your projects for this year under each adjudication category. The adjudicator had never visited Clonmore before. On reading your documentation and on first entry to the village, one got the feeling that the entry was a community effort and not just a Tidy Towns Committee submission. Tidy Towns / the environment appear to be deeply absorbed into the community ethos. It was good to read of the FAS and County Council support for your work. You are also getting very good advice on various issues. Your use of the 'grapevine' to spread the Tidy Towns word in the community seems to be working very well. Well done on getting the new web site up and running. The adjudicator strongly supports your strategy with regard to local heritage.

The Built Environment:

Your work programme under this adjudication category was extensive and the maintenance of the four Graveyards alone a major task. Hopefully, the Graveyard drainage problem has been or will be solved shortly. The Community Hall looked really well and the grey colour scheme is most attractive. Door and window replacements at the Chapel were examined. The new view of the Castle does indeed show how imposing this structure still is – what it must have looked like originally? Work at the Motte, where the clean up took place, is commended. The idea of using just a small set of natural colours in the village will provide additional visual unity and should be encouraged. The old Post Office was well presented, but two windows, if blanked out with marine ply and painted, would improve the overall impact here. The old Catholic Church and Graveyard was visited, and it is suggested that the white gate here be painted. The plaque on the wall, to the left of the gate, is rather difficult to read. The Church of Ireland and adjoining Graveyard were well presented, and there appears to be quite an old Cross (High Cross?) in the Graveyard close to the road. St Magurs Graveyard is excellently presented and there are some very old cross slabs here on the left hand side. An information panel

here would be useful.

Landscaping:

You have been extremely active on landscaping issues with 1,000 new Snowdrops and 800 Daffodils – what great colour these must have given in bloom. Planting for a year round colour should be encouraged and it will reduce your maintenance requirements also. The 2 Acre Smith's Garden was not identified on the map provided. Hanging baskets were admired and your plans for floral centre in the village noted. Do however, make sure that future landscaping is as natural as possible and avoid introducing artificial designs that do not sit well in this deeply rural area. The raised landscaped areas at the Catholic Church car park were much admired and they are so well presented. This was complimented by the excellently painted road boundary wall. Excellent landscaping was again admired at the junction, up to the Catholic Church. The wall top landscaping on the left from the Church of Ireland has an attractive, 'natural' visual appeal.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The planned Nature Walk sounds most interesting and why not combine this with a Heritage Trail? It was great to read that one of the Bird Boxes is now occupied! Have you considered a Wildlife Survey of the Clonmore area? The areas of the Well and opposite the pub were well presented. The area around the Well, with the running water especially, appealed to the adjudicator.

Litter Control:

The School involvement in litter campaigns is a great way of developing youth interest in environmental excellence. Congratulations on your Litter League prize. Your litter bin emptying schedule is working well as are your regular litter patrols. On the day of the visit, litter control was impressive apart from the Bring Centre. At the Bring Centre, four bags of rubbish / litter and one box were dumped. At least one of the units seemed to be full – a similar observation was made in the 2008 Report.

Waste Minimisation:

Good luck to the School, as they work towards their Green Flag, and well done on their recycling initiatives. The composting of grass cuttings is an excellent decision for the community, as is the use of the Newsletter to get your recycling message across. What are you doing in respect of waste reduction?

Tidiness:

The removal of the old mobile home and petrol pumps marks great progress under this category. The adjudicator sympathises with you in your pursuit of proper village signage and hopefully the County Council will deliver on this shortly. The area around the old Catholic Church was tidy, following your big clean up here. The area by the post and rail fencing at the Castle could have been slightly better presented.

Residential Areas:

Thankfully, Clonmore has not been overrun by estate development. The limited number of private houses was presented with obvious pride. Timber fencing painting, at the Glebe lands, has been noted as well as the painting of the all important road boundary walls.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Hopefully, you will make early progress on road resurfacing as you made on the bridge wall rebuilding. Road markings are indeed necessary and few seemed visible at normal speed. On approach roads it is important to attend to verges from the 50 KPH signs in, towards the village centre. Do remember that under the Wildlife Act banks cannot be cut between March and August. Fine Granite walls lead the way into Clonmore on some of your roads and what beautiful walls they are!

General Impression:

It was a real pleasure to visit Clonmore for the first time on a June afternoon. Clonmore has the potential to do really well in Tidy Towns and we look forward to returning in 2010.