

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Clogh** Ref: **390**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **236**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>236</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome the attractive village of Clogh to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form, from which the adjudicator understands that you have a Committee of five and have about five meetings per year. It is encouraging to read that you still receive support from the County Council and FAS. Your continued involvement with the School is important. If young people can appreciate the environment at an early age then they will probably retain this value for life. For next year, can you include a copy of your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan with your entry?

### **The Built Environment:**

Well done on the work on the bridge which was examined by the adjudicator. The repairs and cleaning looked well. This is an attractive stretch of river, but a little litter downstream needed to be removed. The Phoenix Inn caught the eye because of the simple graphics here. Along the long road, that forms the spine of the village, various farm entrances were noted and some well kept areas were observed. Some entrances however, can be improved. The Handball Alley entrance area was neat and tidy, as was the Health Centre building. However, the three flower tubs here needed to be treated. The National School appealed to this adjudicator in design terms. This does not seem to be a typically designed School building and because of that, it fits in well with this rural countryside. The Somers property caught the eye because of the use of simple, clear overhead lettering. The fine avenue of trees leads the eye successfully to the Catholic Church building and here the landscaping at the entrance area was much admired. It was good to see that the old National School had found a new productive community use. Both, building and car park, were extremely well presented and the village stone outside was admired.

### **Landscaping:**

Your entry advised that shrubs in barrels were replaced and that landscaping at the Church was renewed.

Work at the Chatsworth estate was also admired. At the turn to the Community Field roadside, landscaping added a little colour. A number of the barrels, located throughout Clogh, needed to be either replaced or treated. For example, one of the barrels outside the School was about to collapse. Generally, the landscaping that has been carried out in Clogh is low key and this is appropriate to such a rural area, with natural landscaping all around.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The river clean up work has been noted carefully. Hopefully, for 2010 you will be able to develop the wildlife aspect of your work. Have you considered a simple wildlife survey that would involve the School and there may be a local expert who would be prepared to help?

#### **Litter Control:**

The use of the Parish Bulletin to remind people of the importance of litter control is creative. A little litter was noted along the edge of the GAA car park and across the road from the Church. These were isolated instances and generally, litter control in Clogh on the day of the visit was quite good.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

You mentioned that two skips were provided for home owners, but gave no details. What happened to the contents of the skips when removed and was recycling definitely involved? Have you considered how the amount of waste produced in Clogh can be reduced?

#### **Tidiness:**

The entry form referred to the renewal of old ESB poles and what this involved is not clear. The old damaged Lottery sign at the GAA car park needs to be removed and replaced if appropriate. In Cois Na Abhainn, the child safety pole needed to be painted. Beside this sign, a blank pole did not appear to serve any useful purpose. Some road boundary walls were in urgent need of repainting and hopefully, this can be actioned for next year. At the mobile home, a grass area looked quite untidy. Just cutting the grass here on a regular basis would make a great difference. Watch out for weeds growth at kerbing, which was noted along the main road running through the village. However, on the day of the visit work was in progress on weed and grass removal at one kerb area. The collapsed corrugated iron building is a larger problem that needs attention.

#### **Residential Areas:**

At Chatsworth, many of the houses here were enhanced by good private landscaping. Good hedging stood out here. Not far from the entrance to this estate, a long boundary wall needed urgent improvement. Good grass areas and a fine mature tree caught the eye at Cois Na Abhainn. Can the detached cottage, with the damaged roof, be saved as it is such an important aspect of the character of Clogh? Near the bridge, another extremely well restored cottage was greatly admired. It was great to see that the traditional casement windows here have been preserved.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The three main approach roads created a good first impression of Clogh and some good verge areas were admired. The village name stones were appropriate in design and size to the village. In the area from The Phoenix Inn to Cois Na Abhainn, the verge on the left looked a little rough and needed attention.

#### **General Impression:**

Clogh is an attractive village of character and we wish you well with your projects for 2010, when we look forward to returning.