

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clogher** Ref: **459**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **242**
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	13
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	242

Overall Development Approach:

Clogher Environmental Group is welcome to the 2009 Competition. You have a large and scattered area to maintain. You would appear to have a good working relationship with Mayo County Council, FAS, RSS, a horticulturalist, the local school and local householders. Congratulations on achieving litter free status in the Mayo County Council Litter League, Second Prize in the Cleaner Community Environmental Project and third prize in the Golden Mile Awards! We were pleased to hear of your inclusion in the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail.

The Built Environment:

The standard in this category was good on the day. The national school was quite fresh, although the adjacent community centre had yet to be painted. The pub, the Drum Inn, was fresh and the Heritage Centre was admired. The broken beer sign at the pub should be removed, and the road surface at the car park at this location was a little rough. The GAA building and gates could be painted before next year, although its creeper clad wall with associated floral planting was admired. The shrine at the Heritage Centre was a little stained and could be painted before next year's competition.

Landscaping:

The various flower beds and landscaped spaces throughout the village were admired. The creeper clad GAA ground walls have been commented upon elsewhere in this report, and the overhanging trees on this road were admired. The grounds of the school were well maintained, with a bird box prominently on display. The Marian Shrine was well presented and simple, as was the Holy Well. The planted bed opposite the school was admired, as was that at the Marian Shrine. The grounds of the Heritage Centre were well maintained with beautiful and elegant Easter lilies on display.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The information boards regarding native trees and wetland wild flowers were noted at the Heritage Centre and looked well. We were pleased to note the marvellous facilities you have of the many walks through the locality. Cheerful yellow bog irises were noted beyond the school.

Litter Control:

We were pleased to hear that you participate in the National Spring Clean and Mayo County Council's litter league. Congratulations on your success in these. The standard of litter control on the day was good, with only a few papers being noted on the road to the Holy Well.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling area at the GAA grounds in the village was well maintained. We were pleased to note that the national school had retained its Green Flag status and said flag was flying proudly on the day. The weekly segregated rubbish collection is an excellent idea and we were pleased to hear that all households participate in this. The composting and water conservation workshops are an excellent idea.

Tidiness:

The village was generally well cared for on the day. A few outbuildings on the road to the well looked a little neglected, however.

Residential Areas:

The houses along approach roads were generally well cared for. One opposite the GAA grounds was particularly admired for its stone boundary wall and colourful floral display outside. A cheerful cottage beyond the school was admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The village is very spread out and, therefore, there is a lot of area for you to cover. There is no central node, as such, to the village, as there is really only the pub, school and community centre at the crossroads and the other elements of the village are rather "far flung". We would suggest that you make more of the crossroads in terms of landscaping and possibly a sculptural piece, to make it more of a pivotal point for the village to radiate out from. It would be important that the roads of the village are treated in a natural way and it is ensured that they don't look neglected and overgrown. It would also be suggested that you mark the entrance to the village with nameplates, to give a sense of arrival to the village. The existing townland nameplates were admired. However, the road junction sign beyond the school was a little grubby.

General Impression:

Clogher is a peaceful and pleasant place to visit, it was filled with birdsong and the pleasant scent of turf on the day!