

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Cloneen** Ref: **557**  
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **252**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>252</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Congratulations to Cloneen for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission, for your map and for including your 5 Year Plan. If your committee continues to act on the advice of the adjudicator, as you did last year, your marks will grow exponentially. The map was the most useful this year's adjudicator encountered for a long time. You acted immediately on a plan for the coming years on the advice of the report. Well done. This will help you prioritise your projects. An exercise for the coming year: cost the various works; identify sources of funding for each project. Then your plan becomes realistic. It is noted that you are including the involvement of the County Council and local school in your plans. You will need the active assistance of various agencies, if you are to progress in your plans. It is obvious from reading your 5 Year Plan that you recognise the historical and cultural importance in enhancing Cloneen. The best of luck to you in your work.

### **The Built Environment:**

Cloneen is an unusual village. One would expect that the junction at the top of the street would be the focal point of activity in the village; not so. That junction is now dominated by the new semi-detached houses, as a landlord's manor might have overlooked his estate. As their position is quite dominant, their maintenance and flair will always be of paramount importance. This is a village with ancient roots, as the plaque in the old graveyard tells us. One can sense the village pride in the cemeteries, in the church building, in the lane leading up to the old cemetery, not only because of the thatched cottage, but more so because of the house next door. For this is a house that lives in the new millennium, but values the practices of previous generations, with its narrow flower beds in an already narrow lane and the rainwater barrel at the gable; and all beautifully maintained. Would that the building housing the Sports and Social Club could have kept pace and fulfilled on the promise at its opening. Is this now a white elephant? If the outside appearance reflects the

soul inside, then its time has passed. If it fulfils a worthy function in village life then it deserves a facelift. Elsewhere life seems to thrive. The school glows. The GAA clubhouse develops apace. The millennium memorial is cherished. The dead are honoured with resting places that befit their contribution to Cloneen life down the years. And the church is resplendent. Even the pumphouse is honoured with deft landscaping touches.

### **Landscaping:**

Cloneen is already blessed with fine landscaping throughout the village and in the village environs. The trees about the Church area create an appropriate ecclesiastical aspect. The rose garden is a delight. The use of landscaping at the pumphouse is excellent. So also is the landscaping around the Bring Bank and at the entrance to Mountain View. The pub and school all add to the summer colour. The appearance of gaping gables is softened effectively with baskets. The millennium memorial continues to shine. Private residences contribute to the village colour.

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

It took a while to find them, but it was a thrill to see the boxes being provided for owl and bat. As was mentioned in last year's report, you might let us know what is happening, especially in the case of the owl. Let us know how you make the public aware of these boxes. A wildlife survey is crucial to the development of a wildlife plan, which would be suitable for Cloneen. It is obvious from your submission that you are aware of the welfare of wildlife habitats. All of the items in your 5 Year Plan are worthy, but are aspirational until you define precisely what you intend to do, how you will further your plans in each case and how the plans will be funded. It is noted that you intend to engage with the STDC Rural Development Officer with an ambition to develop looped walks. More definite plans on the walks might be included with next year's submission.

### **Litter Control:**

A great effort is being made with regard to litter control. Apart from a few pieces, Cloneen was litter free. Your continued monitoring of the litter situation is effective. In next year's submission, describe the monitoring. Well done on participating in the National Spring Clean. You mention the creation of the compost heap in this section. As the composting material is not a litter issue, it might be better to keep composting with the waste minimisation section. Continue to encourage the school to pursue Green Flag Status.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Your Bring Bank is a credit to you. The landscaping around it adorns this functional centre. The beautiful surroundings seem to deter, would be dumpers, from soiling the area. The name stone for the estate further enhances the area. The compost heap also is a worthwhile project, though the plastic bottle seemed somehow to be misplaced. There may be a need for an educational programme on composting. Segregation of litter is also a worthwhile waste minimisation project. While your submission mentions the school and Green Flag Status, your Five Year Plan does not mention this.

### **Tidiness:**

It seems like a wasted opportunity to have an overground cable into the new houses at the top of the street. When the opportunity arises, it would be in your interest to have overground cables buried. Both cemeteries are well maintained. As the older cemetery is such an important link with your ancient past, it is proper that it is looked after. The entrance to the community centre does need attention.

### **Residential Areas:**

The private houses contribute to the attractiveness of Cloneen. Hedges and stone walls add colour and stability, and look neat. The well maintained railings in some places bring a stately appearance. The entrance to Mountain View is most appealing. The estate is well maintained, the open spaces create colour and a sense of rest.

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

It is a joy to be welcomed to a village where the name sign is respectfully treated, as in your case with the raised beds of summer colour. The trimmed verges add to this welcome. All the roads sweeping into Cloneen

are attractive. Unwashed or poorly painted boundary walls give a neglected appearance to an area. The protective fencing at the GAA is a pity, but may be the better of two evils. The area around the community centre also needs attention.

**General Impression:**

Cloneen made a big impression on this adjudicator. There is a sense of welcome, not just in the signs, but also in the gay colours that light up village life. The enthusiasm of your committee in acting on the recommendations of last year is inspiring. One must weigh up one's recommendations carefully in case one leads the willing listeners astray. I will leave the last word to last year's adjudicator: 'Perhaps, the Post Office could do with a new sign front'.