

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonoulty** Ref: **528**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **218**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	218

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Clonoulty TidyTowns Committee for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map. A hand drawn sketch of the town, which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the TidyTowns Competition, is a great help to the adjudicator and more effective than an ordnance survey map. It is a pity that you did not include a 3-5 Year Plan. If you do not have one, the exercise of compiling such a plan would enable you to set immediate and medium term targets for yourselves, would help you decide which local bodies and agencies would assist you with your various projects. As all projects need funding, you would set down in your plan how you propose to fund these various projects. Think about it for next year. At present, you appear to be working very much on your own. The production of a plan would bring you into contact with the County Council, Fás and other agencies. Well done on your contact with the school. Continue your good work. As people see the results, they will come on board too.

The Built Environment:

The built environment of the village is a rare view of old and new buildings attempting to gel into a co-ordinated unity. The thatch must keep pace with the new houses and it fights its corner well with the strong colour. The white house with the grey surrounds is caught between those previous extremes and is delightful. The old Church is a vital link with your heritage and is holding up well. The old cemetery is respectfully maintained. The newer one lacks the dignity afforded to its predecessor for lack of attention. Old and new mingle, all are precious. The memorial to Connie Ryan expresses pride in one of your own. The old post box alongside is an opportunity to save a museum piece; a project for the coming year. The main buildings on the street, the Church, the Community Centre, the Village Inn and its rival down the street, the school all bring colour and character to Clonoulty. The tennis court sign is most attractive. The ornate gates at The Local Pub

are most striking and well painted. Great efforts have been made to site the local pump in pleasant surroundings. The stonework is most attractive, but the pump needs a loving coat of paint. An immediate project. It is inevitable that buildings will pass their sell-by date. That should not deter one from trying to preserve good heritage buildings that may now be used as a shed and could continue to be used as a shed. That stone shed on the main thoroughfare could be made attractive, if the roof was tended to. The effort to restore the stone building with the grey doors on the Rossmore road has been well worthwhile. Full marks to the Búistéir for the Gaeilge and the colour.

Landscaping:

A lot of thought and work is evident in the landscaping of the village over many years. The challenge is to maintain the landscaping already set in place and to identify priorities for the next stage. The open space in the middle of the village is most attractive and looked well maintained. The seat offers one an invitation. If you could influence the owner of the fence behind to do some renovation work that would be welcome. The long wall across the road adds to the interest and the planned planting in the insets is most attractive. The amenity area and shrubbery at the junctions have a welcoming design. Ensure that they are maintained and continue to bring colour to their respective corners. Encourage all businesses to assist with the landscaping. Outside one pub, there is a fine bed, but it needs more tending. Your hanging baskets at the Community Centre are well worth the investment. The concrete feeding through is an opportunity wasted. It would even help to camouflage the wall behind.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Waiting for the desanitation programme of the sewerage plant could be like waiting for Godot. This section is a headache for many, so you may need to tap into some expertise. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition.

Litter Control:

Clonoulty is not a dirty village and neither is it litter free. It is a good sign to see a litter box full, as was the case at the amenity area. The accompanying concern is when will it be emptied. The emphasis in the litter section is not just on collecting and organising clean-ups. These are important, but creating awareness of litter reduction schemes is equally important.

Waste Minimisation:

Another challenging section. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste', as was mentioned last year. Such a study would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. Remember that the emphasis in this section is not on litter control, but on minimising waste in your community. You could encourage the school to try to achieve Green Flag Status. The pupils would learn much about recycling, reusing, reducing and composting. They would be involved in waste minimisation projects and would bring their new found skills, their new found knowledge and their new found enthusiasm home to the generations at home. Keep an eye on the Bring Bank, as the dumping is most unfair to your efforts.

Tidiness:

A weed control programme has been carried out and has been very successful, helping to create a tidy impression. Road signs, in general, need a facelift and create a shabby appearance. At the lovely amenity area on the Thurles side, the signs are falling to the ground and are of no assistance to the driver. As one approaches from the Thurles side, one is struck by the amount of advertising along the village street. Try to keep this type of posting under control. One 'for sale' sign is even broken.

Residential Areas:

Kilnamagh Court is still in its infancy, but the layout of the estate augurs well for its development. The name stone is attractive. There is ample open space. The landscaping already brings colour to the estate. The estate of brick houses on one of the side roads has a cosy cared-for appearance. There are many lovely houses about the village that bring colour, design and good landscaping, all pleasing to the eye. The houses on the Rossmore road create a village atmosphere.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads give the first impression of a village to the traveller. There are beautiful hedges and walls throughout that attract the eye. Keep the road verges mowed and in that way the hedges will be more eye-catching. The village name signs have been planted on raised beds, very nice but those beds need some summer colour to bring the planting to life. The road surface on the Rossmore side is poor.

General Impression:

One senses a certain frustration with the recent building development in the village. Hopefully, it will soon be completed to everybody's satisfaction, because the new residents will bring added impetus to all aspects of Clonoulty life. There is still much work to do in beautifying your village. Get the new people involved.