

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clashmore** Ref: **243**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **250**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	250

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a completed application form and a useful map indicating the location of this year's work programme. The Clashmore committee are to be congratulated on involving the school children in the TidyTowns Campaign. We would encourage the committee to engage the help of other agencies, perhaps Waterford County Council and Leader, particularly in relation to the production of a three to five year village enhancement plan. It is to be hoped by widening the net in relation to applications for development assistance, that this approach will pay dividends in time.

The Built Environment:

Like many Irish villages Clashmore retains a strong urban form. Generally, buildings within the core retain their unique vernacular scale and proportion and they are nicely presented, though some have fallen into disuse. However, these buildings are an important part of the streetscape and, perhaps it would be worthwhile for the committee, possibly in conjunction with the County Council or other interested bodies, to have these buildings architecturally assessed with a view to their proper long term conservation and regeneration. Existing features such as shop fronts, doorways, sash windows, and chimney stacks should be particularly noted with a view to preservation. The well-kept urban quality of the village compliments the idyllic scenic setting and contrasts well with the woodland backdrop of the Raheen Walk. It is noted that restoration work has already commenced and this is illustrated by very successful conversion of the old church to the Heritage Centre. This building, with its interesting photographic displays and artefacts, has a dominant location overlooking the Main Street and provides a wonderful vista to the enclosure of the street when viewed from the bridge. The Old Still Pub, Beresfords and Decies Bar are attractive buildings and well presented. A planning notice was observed on the pink building opposite the Old Still and we look forward to the completion of this project. The Post Office building on the corner has a pleasant colour scheme when viewed from Chapel

Street. This building would benefit from a name sign fascia board.

Landscaping:

The Grotto is a nice feature located in a prominent position close by the bridge. The planting and presentation is very appropriate to this location. The information board close by created a good point of interest. The grassed areas by the old brewery were magnificently maintained and ongoing work was being carried out to the bank of the well presented Riverside B&B garden. There was a colourful array of well located flower boxes and tubs throughout the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is good to see the increase of bird boxes on the Raheen Walk. On the day of adjudication, there were a number of fledgling yellow wagtails that had just left their nest in this location. The involvement of the school children in this effort is commendable and no doubt will have long term benefits to the community. As a rural village Clashmore is rich in natural wildlife, green areas and habitats and perhaps a good way of raising awareness of environmental issues amongst the local community would be for the committee to build on the fascination of the school children with the bird boxes to encourage local wildlife surveys. The results could then be further illustrated by adding to the existing bilingual, wildlife boards providing further interesting information points in the village.

Litter Control:

Litter control was reasonably good throughout Clashmore on the day of adjudication with a small amount of litter being noted on the Youghal approach road. Your involvement of the school children in the anti-litter campaign is commendable. They deserve a big round of applause. At the attractive bridge, it was a pity to see a number of plastic bottles and other litter strewn along the river bed. To take your activities a stage further under this heading, you might segregate litter during litter picks for recycling. A litter survey to identify sources might also be undertaken with a view to developing an effective litter strategy and, therefore, cut down on litter picking.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Bank is well located in a prominent location close by the GAA club. The site is well presented, but the sign needs to be cleaned. On the day of adjudication, there were a number of plastic bags discarded nearby. Perhaps your group could make further progress on this agenda taking on board some of the suggestions from last year's adjudicator.

Tidiness:

The development on the Youghal Road has made an impact on the overall tidiness of the village. The plant boxes surrounding the car park to the rear of the Old Still would need to be freshened and replanted. The completion of the development at Saint Mochua's Terrace will in time substantially enhance this very attractive area.

Residential Areas:

The Riverview housing estates, though not identified by name plaques, are nicely maintained and look well, though some weed control is required in a number of the shrubberies. The Lower Ballyheaney scheme has some attractive house and garden presentations, but the grassed area is in need of cutting and the kerb line is broken in one location. Individual residences throughout the village have a high standard and are well presented. Saint Mochua's Terrace has a pleasant pastel colour scheme and the housing opposite, with their magnificent individual garden presentations, were a highlight.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Youghal approach road and the recent developments at the Orchard, together with the timber sign made a welcoming approach to the village. This area has an attractive stone wall that would be considerably enhanced if the post and wire chain link fence could have a hedge planted inside the boundary. At the junction of the Clonmel/Dungarvan roads, the attractive circular stone flower bed is in need of some attention, replanting and weed control. The grounds of the nearby Catholic Church are well maintained and look well, as does the colourful triangular flower box further along Chapel Street.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Clashmore situated on the Raheen River is one of an Irish village nestling comfortably in its setting, which has retained its charm, while embracing new development in harmony with the existing.

