

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clogheen** Ref: **637**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **263**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	50	33	33
Landscaping	50	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23	24
Litter Control	50	33	33
Tidiness	30	19	19
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Residential Areas	40	32	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	33
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	263	263

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of 6 adults and the 5th and 6th class members are to be complimented on your efforts particularly this year because of the wet spring and summer. It is noted that you have the support of your local committees and public authorities. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with areas marked for visiting by the adjudicators and for the photos of your works at the old Courthouse. We also received the school's action plan and have noted your plans for the next three years.

The Built Environment:

Clogheen has a range of buildings in the town some of which are in good condition and some others which are in need of attention. One of the latter is as mentioned in 2011, the old Clogheen Tyre Services building where work is urgently needed. The Fire Station was well painted and we noted that work is ongoing at the old Courthouse. The Garda Station and the Two Rivers accommodation are well maintained. At the former St. Paul's Church of Ireland Church the building, which is now a Community Centre looks well but the gates still need painting. The weeds will cause damage to the wall. The information signs are very interesting and look well. The playground and adjacent green area are attractively presented. The time capsule for the millennium is a novel idea. It is a shame to see the number of empty/derelict buildings (including the former Vee Hotel) in Lower Main Street. The AIB building looks well as does the entrance and thatched house opposite. In Bridge Street by the River Suir, the Hermitage guest house and restaurant looks very well. Other houses on this street were well painted. There is scope for trees on the margins. The lights on the bridge were an attractive feature as were the hanging baskets. The school has a nice parking area with a good stone boundary wall and we noted the large lime tree with its surrounding planting. The Parish centre needs painting. Market Street had some buildings in good repair and others needing attention. At Wyse's Garage improvements for the roof recommended in 2011 still apply. The old convent is well kept and the boundary walls well painted. The

stone wall opposite looks well. Alongside a number of vacant houses on Main Street was a very noticeably painted Veterinary Clinic. The Church, the Grotto and the Calvary were in good condition and the trees in the grounds looked very well. Some weeds on the boundary, wall capping need attention. The entrance to the old big house is overgrown, the piers and gates need cleaning. Shanrahan cemetery needs a directional sign from the village. The cemetery looks very well and the grass on the approach road was well trimmed. The Vee Valley Day Care Centre and Health Centre were both well maintained. The well sheltered GAA field was clean and tidy with a good boundary wall and gate.

Landscaping:

Some areas such as the Church grounds and the old convent are landscaped to a high standard with mature trees. Another lime tree is suggested to match the existing one at the playground. Birch trees in the corner of the car park at the playground look well; the litter beneath was unsightly. The streets in Clogheen are quite wide and therefore the planting of street trees should be considered. If this is undertaken please remember to use one species such as lime. Plant containers were noted at the toilet block. It is suggested that wall plants such as ivy would do better and can be planted directly into the ground. The use of plant containers should be restricted to areas where planting directly into the ground is not possible. In that regard there is no need to use containers in locations such as in the vicinity of the time capsule where planting into the ground can be achieved. This would reduce the maintenance tasks.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverbank would be very suitable for a picnic area. The river walk through the woods is a great feature for your community. Sorry to learn that the wildlife posters were vandalised. A wildlife survey of Clogheen as suggested in 2011 would have benefits especially for school children.

Litter Control:

The school is making great strides with litter management. We noted their actions in reducing and reusing the amount of paper and circulation of a newsletter. Some litter was noted at the playground. The litter bin outside Moroneys needs painting. Good luck in your plans for the school competition

Tidiness:

We note your efforts at tidiness in your community. The power washing and painting at the Coop was effective. On the Convent Road, a man was busy at work removing weeds. The public toilets had weeds, litter and graffiti. The entrance to the County Council depot and Bring Bank centre was weedy and the bring bank containers needed washing.

Waste Minimisation:

While the Bring Centre needed cleaning it is a good facility for waste minimisation. The school has two green flags, a garden with a polytunnel. All classes are involved in composting and collect old clothes for Africa. We note that the Tidy Towns Youth Officer has regular meetings with teachers and children to raise awareness of this aspect of Tidy Towns. Recycling bags, ready for collection around the town were noted. The compost heap at Alley Close was noted. As suggested in 2011, try and carry out a very simple waste audit in Clogheen. Where is waste being produced and how can it be reduced?

Residential Areas:

Fr. Sheehy Terrace was fine but the wall to the right could be screened with wall plants. Lios Mhuire is clean and tidy. It has good trees and seating. We noted the new trees and the nice boundary wall. The Alley Close estate looked well and the trees and grass well maintained. The seat would benefit from painting. The stone wall and planting on it was noted. Poulbúí estate was neat and tidy as was the Paddock estate.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The street signs on walls were of good quality. On Convent Road the signs need cleaning and derelict houses have been painted. The galvanised gate needs painting. Brewery Lane has weeds. On the Barrack Road entrance to the village the Clogheen sign needs painting. Combine the welcome sign with the white sign to reduce clutter. The mixture of stone walls and other boundaries create a mixed appearance. We suggest the use of wall plants to reduce the view of concrete sections of these walls.

General Impression:

Clogheen has a lovely backdrop of mountains. You have achieved much despite the challenge of the large number of vacant properties. We look forward to your application in 2013.

