

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clogher**

Ref: **459**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **271**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **28/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	50	32	33
Landscaping	50	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33	35
Litter Control	50	36	38
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	13	13
Tidiness	30	19	19
Residential Areas	40	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	264	271

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Clogher to the 2013 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Thank you for your completed entry form, brochures, and photographs and copy Certificates. It was an unusual adjudication experience for your adjudicator to adjudicate Clogher this year. Unusual in the sense that you have committed your efforts to such a widely diverse rural area that has a very strong heritage bias. That is what made adjudication of Clogher so unusual and therefore so very interesting. Your committee of ten is a large one but one suspects that practically your total Clogher community is involved in one way or another in your important work for Tidy Towns. The appropriate agencies are also supporting your work. Your social media marketing campaign to promote local heritage and ecology is warmly commended as are your obviously strong School links. All sites on your map were visited and all of them were found with the exception of the old School. A 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan was not included with your entry and you might look at that during the coming winter. If you use the ten adjudication categories as a framework you should find that useful.

The Built Environment:

The planting at the Millennium Grotto was admired though some dead weeds here needed attention. Throughout the Clogher area derelict houses and other properties are a problem. The beautiful stone Forge and the Heritage Centre beside were visited and enjoyed. As your adjudicator's Great Grandfather was a Wexford Blacksmith the Forge was of special interest. At the Heritage Centre the information panel on Wetland Wildflowers was of great interest as was the Looped Walks information here. Hanging baskets and other planting greatly enhanced these buildings. The GAA property was very well presented and the high Limestone walls here are an important feature. The School and the Community Hall continued the high standard seen elsewhere in the built environment. Geata Na gCorp is an unusual feature that was visited and your adjudicator wonders why coffins were put through the wall on the way to Drum Graveyard? The Drum Inn colour scheme was admired. It is suggested that the permanent panel attached to the wall with the premises name should be painted onto the wall as a graphic. This building deserves such treatment. The Graveyard was visited and the fine stone walls on the approach road were admired. The Well and Grotto here is of great interest but dead weeds to the front needed attention. The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish language must have the primary role. For next year do let us have a summary of the Inventory of Heritage Sites.

Landscaping:

New planting at Clogher Cross was admired as were small landscaped areas visited throughout the Clogher area. At the Cross the tubs needed to be treated. Planting at Geata Na GCorp was also admired. Major landscaping work at the Heritage Centre looked really impressive when visited and the planting colours here work well with the grey Limestone. The planting of native trees in several areas is warmly commended as is the planting of Fuchsia. Landscaping at the Hall caught the eye. The native woodland area near the Well was visited and there is a great variety of planting here. At the back one piece of the fencing needed to be repaired. Your adjudicator reminds the Tidy Towns Committee that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your understanding of and true feelings for the importance of the natural heritage of Clogher is really appreciated and it does not always happen in Tidy Towns. Your involvement in the development of local walks and your general support for existing walks is noted from your entry form. Good work has been done during the year at Dromore Woodland. Are there any results from the wildlife survey? Do make sure to let us have a summary next year with your entry form. The Clogher Bog Walk is a most interesting one and your work on interpretation here adds to the enjoyment of this place. Are there any results yet from the ornithology study?

Litter Control:

From your entry form your involvement in the April Spring Clean is noted as is your work on the Bring Centre upkeep. This was visited and there was some dumping behind the units and a few pieces of litter to the front. Your promotion of litter awareness has been highly successful as throughout this large area very little litter was seen. Congratulations on your success in the Co Mayo Litter Action League.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Most of your detail provided under this category was about litter and that is not really relevant here. The key issue is the elimination of waste in Clogher. The Tidy Towns Unit enclosed a very useful paper with your entry form that gives many suggestions for consideration by your committee in the year ahead. So for next year try and make some progress on this.

Tidiness:

Work on weed control has been successful but dead weeds needed to be removed from several areas. Some of the timber signs were rather too small to read from a car with ease. Apart from that the signposting system is quite good. As mentioned derelict buildings are a problem and that is a difficult one to resolve.

Residential Areas:

There is a wide scattering of houses throughout the Clogher adjudication area. One beautifully designed house under construction was noted with a successful mix of white painted walls and nature stone elevations. Most of the houses seen demonstrated a great feeling of pride and recently painted properties also caught the eye in several areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

How did you manage to get so many of your roads tarred recently? Roads were generally excellently presented. Stone walls are a key characteristic of the Clogher area and most of them were in good condition. The various townland panels were of interest and help to preserve this aspect of your heritage.

General Impression:

Your adjudicator really enjoyed the visit to Clogher and found your emphasis on the natural and built heritage really interesting. Good luck in all your aims for the year ahead when we will return to Clogher.