

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloone - Cluain** Ref: **425**  
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **320**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/06/2019**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2019</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	41	42
Streetscape & Public Places	60	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	45	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	24	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	26	26
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	36
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>320</b>

### **Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:**

Cuireann an moltoir seo faille roimh Cloone (An Chluain) chuig Comortas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2019. Thank you kindly for the excellent and concisely presented entry form and the map of the village and surrounds that was very useful to the adjudicator in finding places of interest and identifying project points.

Last year's adjudicator was very impressed with the work that you had done over time and reflected that in the report.

The 3 year plan will end next year and it is presumed that a new one will be formulated when the present one is complete.

Very much the same sentiments apply this year but maybe it will be acknowledged in a shorter narrative.

The comment that impinged on the adjudicator most was in the summary when you made reference to the problems of depopulation in rural Ireland and how the creation of activities at different times of the year, was the key to a vibrant community.

How true is this and one can garner from the entry that Cloone is host to many and varied activities that get locals involved and that attract visitors particularly, those given to adventure, to the village thus creating a boost for your local economy.

The list of agencies and other bodies that you are involved with is impressive and it's noticeable that you have strong interaction with each of them.

Methods of communication are varied where the traditional such as church notices, notes in the local paper and the platform that the relevant forms of social media such as Facebook and What's App give.

One must comment also on the insertion of pictorial recordings that you have inserted into the body of your entry form.

As the saying goes a picture paints a thousand words.

Well done on being part of this competition for 27 years and also well done for the very proactive work that you do with the local Fatima NS.

As you state the community is rightly proud of the work that you do and have done over those years and this is reflected in the support that you get from that same community

Thanks for giving a brief summary of what has been done in relation to the trail on the Tochar section, the fruit and nut orchard and the Operation Transformation Runs and other adventure events that happen during the year .

### **Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:**

The Village is a delightful place to visit just so tranquil and relaxing and with as last adjudicator said "an attractive unspoilt streetscape".

One of the first things that strikes you outside of the streetscape is the excellent condition of the road infrastructure, foot paths, street lighting and the myriad of well maintained stone walls which were positively referred to in detail

last year.

The Fatima National School was extremely well presented with ample well appointed parking in front.

The grounds of the school were clean and tidy, so well done to those that have responsibility for its up keep and one presumes that the wheel barrow was there for decorative purposes! but maybe for practical purposes also if the need arose.

What an impressive Community Centre, the community deserve great kudos for planning and building such a fine establishment which seemed as if had been recently painted.

Well done to all who look after this premises on an ongoing basis and it was good to see the defibrillator placed in such a prominent and accessible place.

St Marys RC is of the type that was referred to in the parish that adjudicator originally came from as "the round" church, probably built in the late 1960s.

The Church and grounds were in good condition and again the parking for worshippers was ample.

McKeon's Pub painted in bright colours with the contrasting black name sign was in excellent condition and it was good to report that it retained the originality that one associates with village pubs.

Higgins PO was also presented well and had nice permanent miniature conifers in front.

The Old Church of Ireland and the adjacent grave yard were in good condition also and grass was been cut as the adjudicator passed on by.

The Old school on the way in from Ballinamore was in remarkable condition and the fencing mentioned in last year's report was re treated and offset the surrounding grounds to good effect.

One presumes that it is used for some events.

This adjudicator is not a fan of advertising hoardings on roadsides such as the one that was at the front here right beside the excellent and colourful flower bed.

The standard of presentation of private street houses in the village proper was top class and it looked as if many had been recently revitalised by way of painting or power washing.

Some nice window boxes and hanging baskets, nothing too obstructive that would interfere with the street scape, were observed.

One admired the memorial stone at the graveyard to the people that promoted the traditional music culture of the area.

You are wished well with your plan to create a garden of remembrance at the Fairgreen and one hopes that it materialises within the planned time scale.

You are also wished well with your efforts to get the footpath extended from the village to Pairc Mhuire which is a nice distance on foot.

Overall the standard was very good and merits an increase in marks.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

Part of the entry form asks the entrants to "demonstrate the year round impact of landscape works in your community you are encouraged to provide photographs of, for example, Daffodil schemes".

Top marks to the compiler of the entry form for your attention to detail as right underneath the statement you have provided – a photograph of daffodils at entrance name sign to the village.

The rest of your input in this category briefly refers to the maintenance work that you are presently undertaking to maintain and upgrade existing flower and shrub beds ion the core of the village and at the excellent name signs as one enters from the outskirts.

Some very detailed and practical recommendations were given by last year's adjudicator in conjunction with what you had in your 3 year plan which is on its penultimate year.

Have all the work outlined in the plan for 2019 in this category been set in motion as it was not clear to the adjudicator if they had or not.

That aside the standard of presentation was very good.

It is a hard job to maintain annual flower beds and credit to the volunteers who maintain the stone bed of annuals at the old school right into the village – parity long wall.

Similarly the stone beds of annuals at the very attractive name signs at the entries to Cloone were looking resplendent.

The bedding begonias at the bed that has the Tidy Towns Endeavour Award 1998 -21 years ago were blooming nicely.

The standard was very good but again one would be concerned that to sustain the maintenance of such an array of bedding plants necessitates time and resources.

Maybe consideration should be given to more maintenance free planting.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

The adjudicator took to shanks mare in no uncertain fashion when adjudicating Cloone and this of course meant nice brisk walk right through the Bothar Na Naomh wildlife and indeed adventure trail.

Much work has been done on the trail proper and at Annagmaconway Lake itself.

The tree and shrub planting that has taken place since last year has been tremendous and this combined with the crannog feature and the bog walk has made this place a bio diversity haven.

The community is of course very fortunate to have such a nature haven available to as most centres would not.

Managing the area in light of the fact that there are so many activities taking place over the year is the key to making sure that this nature haven retains authenticity.

Well done on having the area designated as a bird sanctuary and most importantly allowing you the tidy towns committee to act as keepers on behalf of the community.

The adjudicator was also impressed with the signage that reflected in detail the rich tapestry bio diversity in your

parish.

The key overall issues in respect of this adjudication category are Education – knowledge of local species and habitats and knowledge of local designated areas (SACs, SPAs, NHAs) and Conservation – maintaining of important wildlife areas and implementation of survey results and Wildlife interpretation that is sustainable. The adjudicator feels that as a Committee you have embraced these concepts and principles fully. Well done your work this year merits an increase marks.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

The objective in this category is that of reducing the productions of potential waste at source such as excessive packaging.

“Doing more with less” is a very apt slogan.

As with other centres in the county have received quite high marks in this section over the last few years and it's important for you as a committee to engage further with category requirements to retain these marks.

What you have mentioned as work for this year is a continuation of what you have been doing over the last few years all very relevant of course but pretty standard in most centres now.

This is the adjudicator's recommendation and indeed his mantra when it comes to advice in this particular category

To get more out of this sector in terms of creating a greater awareness of all things that contribute to a more sustainable environment consider looking at the following websites for idea generation

[www.localprevention.ie](http://www.localprevention.ie) , [www.greenhomes.ie](http://www.greenhomes.ie) and [www.sustainableprocessing.ie](http://www.sustainableprocessing.ie)

For instance there are novel way of reusing old newspapers that have very practical benefits and as a follow up its worth checking 36 uses for old newspapers at [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

Also something that this adjudicator has become familiar with is the circular economy indeed it is getting plenty publicity over the last few months

To get more information on the circular economy access the following [www.dccae.gov.ie](http://www.dccae.gov.ie)

and [www.sustainableprocessing.ie](http://www.sustainableprocessing.ie) you will get a pretty good idea of what it's all about.

Let's not forget about the younger generation in this category, visit the green schools organisation

[www.greenschools.org](http://www.greenschools.org)

The idea of what is called a linear economy of “take, make and waste” is now being seen as not sustainable and alternatives need to be found.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Litter control was quite good and one might say that's easy for small villages but the community has to buy in to the effort of keeping places litter free.

As a committee you have promoted the concept of anti litter in Cloone to members of the local community in a practical manner such as getting support for litter picks.

Facebook and other forms of social media are ideal for this type of information campaign.

Well done to both the Youth Club and the Children from Fatima NS for becoming involved in promotion your anti litter campaign and taking part in you

Like other similar rural villages many of your local population do their bit by collecting litter on their daily walks and this shows a pride of place.

A few pieces of litter were detected but it was not a problematic issue

General tidiness was acceptable as well and comments were made in a previous section re road surfaces and footpaths.

A detail analysis with positive suggestions was made by last year's adjudicator and some the issues mentioned look as if they have remains the same.

The Humbert Route sign is a little hard to read it may be because of the colour of background against the font type or maybe its just as last year's report said – faded.

The GAA grounds boundary wall could do with a coat of paint, when the championship season is coming to end the lads might be prevailed upon to get out a few brushes and a good few litres of Weathershield.

One would be surprised how effective the results would prove.

There are a few messy front areas, one in particular not too far from the aforementioned Club, that could with a tidy up.

Name and directional signs were clean and visible.

Overall the standard was good.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

Radharc Na Locha, and what an appropriate name, was presented to a high standard and there seems to be an improvement to road surface this year.

The properties the main village were all maintained to a very high standards and it was noticeable that it looked as if many had been recently painted or dashed.

The adjudicator noted that a house at the graveyard end of the village was up for rent or sale and looked as it had been recently painted.

Maybe this was one of the two referred to in last year's report

The gleaming white houses that were mentioned last year were in same pristine condition.

Mention has been made in previous sections of the quality of stone walls and the tidiness of communal areas such as the fairground and the grounds of the old school.

All of this ongoing maintenance contributes to an extremely well presented and attractive village.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

The entrance into the village from Keshcarrigan Ballinamore which has a nice drive uphill past the Old School has a very welcoming shrub and flower bed at the name plate and the verges were cut in accordance with good practice for the preservation of wild life.

The entrance in from the GAA Grounds off the Mohill road was also acceptable but some of the issues that were mentioned in last year's report does not seem to have been resolved.

The Garvagh Road was acceptable and improvements have been made here in light of suggestions contained in last year's report.

Good to note that you have ensured that grass has been cut at verges of footpaths which allows for comfortable passage for pedestrians.

It is hoped that the planned footpath out to the Naomh Mhuire GGA Grounds.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was the first time that this adjudicator has visited the village of Cloone and what a pleasant visit it was, There was an air of tranquillity about the place with some locals out brushing the front areas of their houses in true Irish tradition.

The sound of a lawnmower wafted down the street,

There is a palpable sense of place about Cloone.

Your are wished well for the years ahead.