

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloneen** Ref: **557**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **270**
Category: **A** Date(s): **29/06/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	41	42
The Built Environment	50	33	34
Landscaping	50	34	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25	26
Litter Control	50	36	38
Waste Minimisation	20	8	9
Tidiness	30	18	19
Residential Areas	40	26	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	261	270

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Cloneen to the 2011 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for an impressive entry form that clearly identified new work for the year. The map was most helpful if a little large in size. The TidyTowns Plan sets clear objectives for the future but did not identify the year or years for implementation. You enjoy a large committee backed up by a large number of volunteers and this is really encouraging for the future of TidyTowns in Cloneen. The range of agencies supporting your work is most impressive as is your comprehensive public relations strategy. Have you considered developing a TidyTowns website for Cloneen? The Tidy Schools Committee concept is welcomed. One of the impressive aspects of your entry form was the fact that you have undertaken so many small projects in each adjudication category. Thank you for the photographs and it is suggested that title be given in future.

The Built Environment:

On the morning of the visit the overall visual impact of Cloneen was one of tidiness. The power washing and repainting of many buildings was obvious from an examination of the village. Work at the Graveyard was examined and great progress has been made here and improvements at the Hall were also seen. At the Catholic Church the pristine black and white colour scheme stood out and is very successful in impact terms. The simple and effective presentation of Anglim's impressed and the hanging baskets here were admired. The colour scheme at the National School works well with the Limestone of the entrance area and hanging baskets and window boxes here added welcome additional natural colour. Thank you for the new heritage leaflet that was read with great interest. The overall tidiness of Cloneen extended to the well presented GAA facility. At the filing station it is suggested that the rusty pole for the sign is repainted. You have made an attractive feature of the Pump House by discreet landscaping. 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.

Landscaping:

This year you have carried out really excellent work on landscaping throughout the village. Your list of work under this adjudication category is really impressive. Quite a large number of smaller landscaped areas were admired. The wildflower area at the back of the rockery and landscaping at the Bring Centre were among many projects that stood out for this adjudicator. The Pump House has been effectively landscaped to help conceal the concrete block structure. The Millennium project was also visited and admired. It is suggested here that the metal flower container is painted possibly matt black or grey to compliment the natural stone. At the Drangan corner the planting on the left was extremely eye catching. At the Mullinahone junction the raised bed here is effective and makes good use of a large space. On the Killustry approach road the extensive grass area on the left at the village sign is especially commended – what a great first introduction to Cloneen. Your adjudicator reminds all Tidy Towns Committees 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:

Thank you for the new Flora & Fauna leaflet which is an excellent publication written in clear English and well illustrated. Your adjudicator has taken this copy and hopefully you do not mind. It is a good example of how such publications should be produced. Work on the stream opposite the filling station was admired and the replanting of the wildlife area with wildflower seeds is noted. Well done on organising the wildlife talk to the School; it is important to get children interested in the environment at an early age. The Hedgehog Box at the Graveyard is unusual and well done on that project. Is this being used? Again you have a long list of worthy achievements under this adjudication category.

Litter Control:

Your litter control mark last year was very high and you have maintained this excellent standard and your mark has again increased this year. It was good to read that the GAA have taken responsibility for litter control at their own site. Hopefully you will succeed in your aim to have composting bins provided locally. The Bring Centre was exceptionally well presented and new landscaping here was especially admired. You have now made this facility a key feature of the village and this does not always happen in Irish towns and villages. Overall litter control in Cloneen on the day of the visit was most impressive.

Waste Minimisation:

It was great to read that Cloneen is involved in the Green Home Programme which is an extension of the Schools Green Flag Programme. Is the School involved in this programme? If not perhaps you can encourage them to get involved. The new compost heap is acknowledged and your adjudicator was especially impressed to read that the SEI energy literature has been well circulated in Cloneen. What was the response to this? This section is fundamentally about waste elimination in Cloneen and you might give this some attention for next year. For example what is happening at the School and the Church?

Tidiness:

You have been very active on the tidiness issue with the valued support of FAS. On the Fethard approach the rusty field gate on the left before the bridge needed attention and the timber fencing on the left just after the bridge needs to be treated. Opposite the Church the white wall to the left of the timber gate would be improved if repainted. At the Drangan junction the fingerpost needed to be straightened. Reference has been made above to the sign pole at the filling station that needed to be repainted.

Residential Areas:

In the village the private houses were well presented and there were many indications of recent repainting. Hanging baskets and window boxes have been well used to enhance the visual impact of private houses. Much good work has been carried out at Mountain View. The presentation here was one of the best that this adjudicator has seen this summer. The metal security fencing at the end of the estate would be improved if painted dark green and the remains of the bonfire need to be removed. The grass areas here and the entrance landscaping were especially impressive.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Fethard approach road the old stone walls are a key feature and your work on walls on approach roads is acknowledged following examination. There seemed to be some quite old walls on the Fethard approach. Verges on all the approach roads were appropriately cut. Those on the Drangan approach were especially impressive with the lush green neat finish that has been achieved here. On the Killustry approach it is suggested that you start planting creepers on the concrete wall on the right on the village approach. Just a few field gates on approach roads need to be painted.

General Impression:

Cloneen is a really attractive village of great character with a community that is obviously so proud of their place. We will be back next year and in the mean time god luck with your excellent work for Cloneen.