

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BAGENALSTOWN**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	33	31
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	229	225

Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your map which was most helpful on the day of adjudication. Although you have not submitted a plan for 3 - 5 years you do have clear objectives in mind. However, all Tidy Towns committees are now required to produce a plan. It should be a simple document setting out clearly your objectives for each year covered and keep it short. Look on it as a guide for your Committee. I note that you are already co-operating with FAS and the Local Authorities. Do liaise with other agencies e.g. Regional Tourism Authority, ESB, the National Rehabilitation Board, Bord na Gaeilge, etc. All have valuable advice to give. You may need more members on your Committee to spread the workload.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public buildings are well presented. The churches are being maintained to a good standard but gates and railings will need attention. The Train Station itself had delightful and well maintained flower beds. The car park and entrance area is clean but needs some landscaping done to it. The National School looked well, except the flag pole which need painting. The Swimming Pool car park needs to be tidied outside the railing and the remainder of the car park resurfaced. The GAA pitch was tidy and neat - perhaps a creeper of some kind could be sown along the wall. At the Pitch & Putt the long grass on top of the stone wall needs to be trimmed. The door of the Garda Station would need attention and the building itself if cleaned would look most attractive. Many of the commercial buildings were well presented, others do need attention. Phelans Pub looked attractive simply painted black with white and Matt Dunnes was beautifully presented, this year and the use of the Irish language was noted. Do invite all commercial interests to come on board and co-operate in helping Bagenalstown to become a more attractive town for the Community and visitor alike. The Library building was well presented - but the railings will need painting. Plastic signage is still visible in some properties. Do encourage bilingualism in signage where appropriate.

LANDSCAPING

Your trees, shrubs and hedging choice and their sited positions is very good overall. The open spaces in some housing estates need better maintenance. The new houses opposite Lazarians House are beautifully presented and there is a lovely blend of shrubs and trees planted there. The island on the Carlow road is well maintained with a delightful display of roses. Then further on from this point - in front of the canal - it has a lovely area which has a nice blend of trees and shrubs. The seating is in perfect condition. The Park was well landscaped with the grass neat and tidy and overall very well presented and maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is great potential for nature conservation in your town. It

was noted that you have involved the transition year students in a project which is a good starting point. Do invite a local expert in your area who will be only too glad to be of help and assistance to you. In particular look at the wetland and grassland habitats that you have. Do not be overwhelmed with this aspect of the competition - it does take time to develop but will be well worthwhile.

LITTER CONTROL

The control of litter was generally good overall. However, there was an amount of litter in East Wood and some in Pairc Mhuire. More litter bins would help the problem. Also the provision of lids for the bins has helped many areas. Perhaps more regular clean up campaigns in the areas prone to litter would help.

TIDINESS

Bagenalstown is reasonably tidy overall. Attention is needed in relation to some of the industrial buildings who perhaps could be encouraged to present their buildings and surrounds to a higher standard. The telephone booth needs painting - this type is most attractive if presented well. Open green spaces in some areas were untidy. Also some seating needs better maintenance. Weed control has improved but more vigilance is needed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most private houses are well maintained. Houses in estates are by and large well presented. Open spaces needed to be cut in the following residential areas; Fr. Cummins, Conway, East Wood, Pairc Mhuire and one part opposite the entrance building between houses on the Royal Oak Road. Boundary walls and gates need attention in some areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were tidy but weeds at kerbs, walls, around sign posts do need more careful attention. Also entrance and gates to open spaces need to be tidied and painted. The Park throughout was neat, litter-free and tidy. The signage was good but some could do with a touch-up.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Bagenalstown has the potential to do well in the competition. More assistance and support is necessary from the commercial and industrial sector. No doubt if an approach is made that co-operation will be forthcoming. Do continue to keep up the good work you are doing !

SECOND ADJUDICATION (16/08/97)

The hanging baskets of flowers establish a strong memory of seasonal colour for the streets of this town and their presentation must be complimented, as they were some of the best displays to seen in the region. The public car park (beside the public toilets) with the plantings on the slopes is looking well but the stakes on the trees could be removed and the loose pile of stones detract from the effort in ensuring that the space is neat and tidy. There

is a wonderful opportunity to link this park space with the river (through incorporating the little side street) possibly with similar tree plantings. This would reinforce the connection of the centre of the town with the river and connect the amenity spaces. Ducks on the road by the river were a pleasant "traffic obstacle" but if grain is going to be part of the litter on this section of road, then perhaps motorists should be warned of the presence of roadside ducks. The toilets require better presentation as they have become a significant feature in this part of the town. The Town Area Sign was very helpful with good information which was easily read. The covers to the bins are a visual improvement which was worth investing in as they are often quite unsightly. The town has a sense of being a regional centre and all the works being carried out by the Committee reinforce that a visit to the town is worthwhile and one wishes you continued success in future years.