

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CARLOW**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	33	30
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	229	223

Carlow Town, Co. Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your copies of the UDCs plan for the town together with the photographs of the various notable features of the town. You do have clear objectives which you want to achieve for Carlow. It would be of great help and useful for your Committee to build on this plan. Liaise with other agencies who may have some useful advice and assistance to give you such as the ESB, Telecom Eireann, FAS, Bord na Gaeilge, Regional Tourism Authority and the National Rehabilitation Board. The town and its riverfronts are being transformed and there is great improvement taking place in the shopfronts of commercial premises. You have established a good relationship with Carlow UDC.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard continues to be maintained and improved. The public buildings all looked well presented for the most part. The Cathedral and Church of Ireland were both presented beautifully. The Town Hall building would need some freshening up for next year. The church by the swimming pool was immaculate in its presentation and the screening of the oil tank was admired. The Swimming Pool grounds and car park had to be admired with a delightful selection of plants, shrubs and trees. The industrial sectors presentation was mixed. Lapple and Braun were examples of how best to present their grounds and boundaries. The commercial sector in Dublin Street and Tullow Street are making great strides in the presentation of their properties and many are also using bilingualism in signage - just to mention a few - The John Tindell Bar, Seomra na Glasta, Teach Dolmain and Siopa Spóirt. It is hoped that over the next few years all plastic signage will be removed. Well done to those who put a lot of money and effort into presenting their properties to a high standard. The hotels and guesthouses were again presented very well.

LANDSCAPING

As mentioned in last years report there is more room for further development under this heading. It was noted from the UDC plan that it recognises that carefully considered landscaping and tree planting plays an important role in improving the appearance of the town. The Park at Hanover Bridge was tidied up and looked very well in parts. The riverside is being worked on and will take some years to finish the renewal that is going on at present. Some of the traffic islands are well maintained as are some open green spaces. The shrub area at Kennedy Avenue needs weeding. The area at Dr. Cullen Park walls does need attention, it was very untidy looking. The trees where planted are maturing. The Athy road does need landscaping throughout.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Carlow has wonderful potential for the development and

conservation of wildlife. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your town area. The existing areas of wildlife importance or primary habitats would be, woodland and wetland. Look to the involvement of all members of the Community. You could focus on school and youth groups - it can be amazing how responsive to the environment young people are. The Conservation Volunteers of Ireland organisation can advise and assist you with this aspect.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was evident on the day of adjudication in some areas. Your efforts will be on-going with this problem. It is difficult to police all areas with only twelve persons on the committee and one has to rely on the community to help you and the Local Authority. Do liaise with the Local Authority on the extent of street cleaning programmes in the town and its environs. Perhaps you can then assess what changes may be necessary to achieve the desired standard of cleanliness. A lot of litter was observed in Kennedy Avenue on the kerbside outside the Telecom Eireann building, Social Welfare building and extending into the car park. Litter on shrubs at the Tullow Street entrances to both supermarkets was evident. Other areas were the entrance to the Cathedral and the laneway from Tullow Street, Barrick Street, at the railing on Rosslare road, on Abbeyleix road and opposite the ACC Bank. You are doing great work in promoting anti-litter awareness among the Community through the media etc and it will pay off for you eventually.

TIDINESS

The town centre is presented in a tidy fashion. The approach roads from Kilkenny and Dublin are good. The Rosslare/Bunclody Road is improving. The secondary roads need improvement. Weeds at kerbs need to be tackled throughout as do the verges. Also weeds at some of the traffic islands need to be removed. The telephone booths need to be refurbished in most areas. Weed control must be a priority.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The overall standard is good with an effort being made by most residents to present their properties well. The Carraig Rua estate was kept neat and tidy but the open green space needed a cut. The tree and shrub planting was admired here. The entrance to the older section needs attention. The houses in John Sweeney Park again were well maintained. Trees there are maturing nicely. Houses on O'Briens Road were again cared for but the open green space needed cutting. In all housing developments the weeds at the kerbs needed attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Athy, Abbeyleix, and Bunclody roads in many areas need attention. Kerbs, walls, open spaces, verges, entrances to industrial areas and sports fields need to be tackled. The streets were in good condition and road works were on-going in the Governey Park area. The signs were presented well - a few need replacing. The roundabouts were tidy and grass cut.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town continues to improve in this competition. The commercial sector in the town centre is making great strides in the presentation of its properties. Well done to all. Encourage all sectors of the Community to get involved again and help with the workload being taken on by the Committee. An exceptional effort is being made by many but all need to come on board.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/97)

Carlow is developing a very strong image as a town with great variety of urban spaces and new parks. The recent urban renewal schemes are well matched by very fine shop fronts and complimentary streetscape. This years submission lacked a strong 3-5 year report indicating exactly how accepted goals are going to be achieved and when they would be phased. This is particularly important from the perspective of a town of this size as it is very demanding on any Committee to tackle the whole town in a short period of time. The phasing of works and establishment of a distinct hierarchy of presentation areas is urgently needed. Litter control is a definite problem with many areas outside of the centre requiring a higher standard. It was noted that greater diligence is required when tidying the streets and parks. Colour for both buildings and floral displays is becoming a strong theme at certain locations in the town. The flower arrangements often do not read strong enough because of their colour choice in flowers and ease of blending with the background. Greater impact can be achieved either through increasing the scale of the display, or better still, work out a plan/theme of colour which is strong, consistent and links the various areas of the town. There have been great changes in Carlow in recent years which makes the town one of the more enjoyable towns to stop in and explore, all people involved must be complimented.