

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BAILIEBORO**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	22	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	12	12
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	22
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	156	158

Bailieboro, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Bailieboro Tidy Towns Committee seems to have a strongly established relationship/rapport with the County Council and Telecom Eireann with additional support from Bailieboro Development Association and local businesses. It is essential, at this stage (as mentioned by last year's adjudicator), to draw up a plan highlighting the weak areas and enhancing the strengths the town obviously has. This will give you a framework and structure within which to build upon and improve the town's existing character and charm.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the buildings along the main street of the town had a bright and cheerful appearance on adjudication day despite the inclement weather. Of particular note was the National Irish Bank, The Castle Inn and Moynagh's in a bright yellow. McCullagh's is an attractive narrow old shop front, but the flaking at first floor level was disappointing. The Medical Hall is another nice old shop front. The next issue to tackle along the main street in this category is the issue of large plastic signs and inappropriate curved canopys which should be replaced with traditional timber signs and fabric awnings. The buildings along the side streets were generally not of the same standard as those on the main street and could have been fresher. The Catholic church was quite fresh and the grassy bank and mature trees leading to it looked well. However, some weeds were evident at the flower bed with its wild daisies and permanent planting to the front. The bleak tarmacaded car park could be broken up with some trees to soften the effect. This is also true of the quite desolate looking play ground area at the school within the housing estate off the Cavan Road. The stone wall surrounding the community school was admired. The school on Anne Street looked quite desolate - its railings were missing leaving only the support posts behind and weeds were apparent at the plinth area of the missing railings. The small Telecom Eireann station opposite was extremely overgrown and had weeds at the base of its boundary wall. The Market House / Library looked well as did the Church of Ireland. However, weeds were apparent to the base of it's boundary wall. The old lodge building in brick at the opposite end of Main Street with its limestone quoins and colourful tiling is very quaint and should be cherished. The houses and shops opposite the Dundalk approach badly need freshening up.

LANDSCAPING

The most obvious progress in this category was the area adjacent to the lake in close proximity to the town. This should be a marvellous asset to the local community when complete. The timber bridge over the stream with the glorious yellow bog irises and rhododendrons were greatly admired. The stone wall on the opposite side of the Cavan Road looked well but the area behind

was quite overgrown and weeds were visible above the wall. Weeds were also apparent to the base at the front of the wall.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Bailieboro is fortunate in this category, as a wealth of wildlife was evident even on a short visit to the town. Thrushes and rooks were evident and there was an abundance of mature trees, grounds and gardens throughout the town. The lake and its environs offer natural habitats to all forms of wildlife. In order to progress further in this category, it is important that you contact both local experts and national bodies such as Conservation Volunteers of Ireland and ENFO. They will help you to identify existing areas of wildlife importance or carry out research and formulate a wildlife management plan. With your profusion of schools, it would be an obvious solution to get the children involved in projects relating to the wildlife in their locality.

LITTER CONTROL

On first impression the town looked relatively litter free. However, a walk through the town revealed some litter along main street and quite a lot along the Cavan Road. A walk along Chapel Lane revealed quite a lot of litter and debris.

TIDINESS

Main Street gave the impression of a neat and tidy appearance. However, one or two issues remain to be resolved. Fly posting should be discouraged and posters removed when the event is over. Weed control was a problem in certain areas, particularly to the bases of boundary walls, as already mentioned in the report. Untidy storage yards should, where possible, be screened from public view as best you can as these create an untidy impression.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses both within the town and along the approach roads were generally reasonably well presented. However, there were one or two problem areas such as the open space at the housing estate containing the National School on the Cavan Road which was very overgrown although the houses themselves were in reasonably good order. Weeds were apparent in the small area of open space to the side of the new houses on Anne Street. A boundary wall on Anne Street opposite New Road was quite filthy. The house with the purple rhododendrons on the Virginia Road was greatly admired.

ROAD, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Although the adjudicator appreciates the work that you have done on the both the Viginia and Cavan Roads, there is still quite a great deal of work to do. At the empty site on the left hand side of the Virginia Road approaching the town, the earthed embankment topped by new evergreen trees and the young ash trees behind were admired and should develop nicely. However, the site behind looks quite unsightly. Along the Cavan Road some litter was apparent and it was quite overgrown. However, road works were in progress. The name plate sign was quite fresh although the flower bed at the base had yet to sport its presumably colourful

display. The speed limit sign coming back along this side was quite grubby. On the Dundalk Road the stone gabled wall at the junction of Main Street could be re-whitewashed. The road surface was quite potholed. There is quite a lot of warehousing and yard areas which should be screened off from public view. The name plate sign on this side of the town was quite grubby and flaky and weeds were apparent at the kerb side. The road surface along Anne Street was also in bad order. The backlands area to the rear of the Church of Ireland was extremely overgrown, the road surface was in very bad order and many of the houses needed freshening up. It currently looks quite desolate and bleak. The side streets of the town were not maintained to the same high standard of Main Street.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The plantation town of Bailieboro has a wide main street dominated by the Church of Ireland at one end, in the high spired gothic style, and a market house at the other. It is a traditional market town with a strong historical and architectural heritage. Although the main street in the town looked extremely well on adjudication day, side streets needed some improvement and back areas looked quite neglected.