

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CAVAN**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	203	201

Cavan, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Cavan Tidy Towns Committee is obviously one which works in close co-operation with Cavan Urban District Council. This body's documentation comprising the development plan for the town and "Action Against Litter Plan" made interesting reading. You are obviously keenly aware of the valuable heritage within the town and its environs and determined to develop these further without compromising their value.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Cavan is a fortunate town in terms of its heritage of fine buildings such as the grand sandstone courthouse, the elegant and beautifully maintained cathedral set on its grassy banks and a wealth of good vernacular buildings within the winding streets of the town. The restoration of the stone Lifeorce Mill is a commendable one and must be a marvellous asset to both resident and visitor alike. Hopefully the restoration of the Franciscan Abbey will be a sensitive one and as beneficial to the town as the mill. The churches throughout the town were admired; the cathedral has already been mentioned, the Church of Ireland and grounds were well maintained and the Presbyterian Church on Farnham Street was admired for its simple but effective lush green landscaping. The commercial buildings throughout the town were in general presented to a good standard. A few remaining inappropriate plastic signs and plastic curved canopies should be removed and replaced with more appropriate signage and traditional fabric awnings. Don't forget gable walls when repainting buildings as many within the town step up and down. The standard of presentation in Abbey Street was quite poor in comparison to the other streets of the town.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping along approach roads was well maintained on adjudication day and looked impressive. The incidental planting within the town itself such as the railed in rose garden adjacent to the Cavan Urban District Council on Town Hall Street looked marvellous. You are to be commended for the use of incidental pieces of modern sculpture such as the granite fountain at Connolly Street on its limestone plinth and the work at the Post Office Plaza.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Cavan is fortunate in this regard with its wealth of mature green spaces, the rivers Killeshandra and Ballinagh running through the town and the Green lake on the Dublin Road. Perhaps riverside walkways could be introduced and notice boards erected at a viewing point to the Green lake giving information on the wildlife to be found there.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category was generally quite good given the size of the town and its busy nature. However, some litter was evident along Main Street, College Street, the path leading to the Mill - there was even a shopping trolley in the Mill Race - and along the Athlone approach road. Quite a lot of litter was evident at the overgrown grassy bank opposite the GAA grounds.

TIDINESS

The overall impression created by the town is one of a neat and tidy appearance. However, there are still one or two problem areas which need to be addressed. For example, there is an open car parking space on College Street in quite a prominent position on the routes through the town. The back wall is quite stained and should be white-washed. The entrance wall to the GAA grounds was badly in need of repainting and created a very bad impression. Directional signs along approach roads and throughout the town were quite grubby and rusty. The messy yard area to Cavan Aluminium looks quite unfortunate. Some back areas and alley ways are quite weedy and need attention; the one near the Connolly Street / Bridge Street junction is an example.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of housing, gardens and common spaces was good. The houses along the Enniskillen Road were quite fresh. The grassy banks at a housing development on the Athlone Road were admired. However, some boundary walls needed repainting. A long boundary wall at the grassy bank leading up to the housing estate on College Street needs freshening up. Generally, the houses throughout the town and along approach roads looked well cared for and had nicely landscaped common spaces.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The back areas to the town have been mentioned in other categories of this report. The landscaping along approach roads has already been mentioned and admired. On the Enniskillen Road the warning directional sign and road works sign was quite grubby although the verges were neatly cut. An oil barrel and a pile of gravel was apparent to the roadside, presumably this is due to on-going road works and will be removed in time. The relatively new trees were coming along nicely as were those on the planted bank to the Dublin Road. The landscaped bed by the Meadow View Inn was admired and a diamond shaped logo at the planted bed beside Mitsubishi Motors was in progress. The Cavan sign coming in this approach road was bent over and obscured from view and the speed limit sign was quite rusty. Along the Athlone Road the verges could have been neater and one or two papers were in evidence. The directional signs were also quite grubby.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town of Cavan looked very well maintained and cared for on a sunny June afternoon. It continues to get high marks in the competition for a town in its category. It must be difficult to maintain the existing standard in a town of this size and the enthusiasm and commitment of all those involved is admirable.