

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	31	31
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	231	229

Bagenalstown, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Bagenalstown is welcome to the 1998 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you again for submitting your application and plan which was helpful to the adjudicators. It is necessary for you to submit a three to five year development plan for your town, so do try to do this for next year as it is part of the requirement for the competition. It is clear that you are working closely with some of the statutory bodies and that you have the co-operation of many individuals and business owners in the town, Bagenalstown looks all the better for it, keep up the good work. We look forward to watching your progress over the coming years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most public buildings in Bagenalstown looked very well this year. In some cases, attention to detail is required, such as at the Library which is a well presented building, but the railings are in need of fresh paint. There are many good shopfronts within the town but there are also others which would benefit from replacement. Do try to encourage the owners to consider replacing their shopfronts. It makes such a difference to a town's visual amenity. Also, business owners should be discouraged from displaying goods on the pavement as it is visually obtrusive and gives the impression of clutter in front of buildings. Continue the good work.

LANDSCAPING

Your new planting is to be commended. It will greatly enhance the presentation of the town. Barrett Square behind the UDC building looks extremely well and is an excellent amenity for the town as is the riverside. There is scope for more incidental planting of containers flower / shrub displays at various locations within the town. It is appreciated that not only does work go into planting such areas, but the maintenance work as well can be onerous. As mentioned last year, some of the open spaces, particularly those in the housing estates, such as Father Cummins Park, would benefit from some planting and more maintenance work. The scheme at the entrance to Eastwood estate looks well but the open space towards the end of the development looks somewhat neglected with its single tree planted on it. Is this an opportunity to extend your landscaping programme?

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Bagenalstown has great potential for nature conservation as mentioned in last year's report, particularly due to the presence of the river in the town. The involvement of school children is a good idea and they are usually very interested in these kind of projects and consultation with experts is also useful in finding out about the

resources within your area and how they might be developed and cared for. The improvements to the walk by the canal and river are to be commended. Congratulations on winning the Barrow award.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control in the town is quite good. There was some evidence of litter in the streets and in the housing estates but in no place had it accumulated so as to be a serious problem. Your efforts as regards litter control are obviously taking effect. As stated last year, more litter bins would be useful. It is appreciated that in the larger centers such as yours, it is difficult to completely obliterate the problem of litter but don't give up because you are doing very well.

TIDINESS

As stated last year the overall impression of Bagenalstown is that it is a tidy town. There are exceptions, however, in that some sites leave a little to be desired such as the car sales business opposite the Anchor, where the forecourt in particular was quite weedy. Telephone boxes, both at Pairc Mhuire and at Father Cummins park need attention. As stated elsewhere in the report, business premises should be discouraged from displaying goods outside of the shopfront, or keep it to an absolute minimum as this creates a poor impression as regards tidiness. Most business premises in Bagenalstown do not do this, but there are a few which do. Some of the seating by the river will need to be freshened up, repaired or replaced for next year's competition.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The comments made in last year's report generally apply again this year. Most of the private houses on the approach roads and within the town are presented to a high standard. Some of the residences in the estates such as Father Cummins park, Conway Park, Eastwood and Pairc Mhuire need some attention, e.g. freshening up of boundary walls, clearance of weeds, and maintenance and painting of gates. In many of these areas also the verges and kerbsides are in need of weed clearance and as mentioned elsewhere, there is potential for improvement to the presentation and maintenance of open spaces and playing fields.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard of presentation under this heading is quite good, this is to be commended because you have many approach roads to Bagenalstown. There are various incidental spaces to the sides of buildings and laneways which look a little neglected. This problem could be overcome by general tidying up and weed clearance.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Bagenalstown on visiting it is very

positive. Certain problems still persist and these are always the most difficult to overcome when a center has reached a high standard in the competition. Do try to attend to these details by gaining the co-operation of the people responsible. You have continued to make good progress on the previous year, well done.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/98)

Weed growth, particularly at this time of year, is something which has to be continuously attended to; somewhat unkempt side areas, mentioned by the first adjudicator, are a hindrance to attaining the very top; as are mass-produced signs on business premises. It is in the filling in of these kind of details that establishes the ultimate winners. That having been said, any increase in marking is the exception rather than the rule in the higher reaches of the Competition where Bagenalstown now stands, and the town has done exceptionally well: hearty congratulations are in order.