

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LEIGHLINBRIDGE**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	245	241

Leighlinbridge, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Leighlinbridge is welcome to the 1998 Tidy Towns Competition. Well done on a very high standard of presentation and additional work this year, thank you also for the excellent plan and list of your objectives which was most helpful to the adjudicator. Overall the presentation was very good again this year. There is scope still, however, for improvements to some business premises. It is recommended that you prioritize this area for next year's competition. The adjudicator was most impressed with the extra landscaping work carried out and the work that has been carried out under wildlife and natural amenities. Well done!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard overall is good. The church and community center looked very well. One or two business premises needed a facelift and the school tower mentioned last year, still needs painting. The Hire and Sales Service near the school looked a little bit untidy. There is room for improvement also for some of the signs and shopfronts. Ideally corrugated roofing should be replaced as it intrudes on the overall good visual impression one gets of the physical environment in the village.

LANDSCAPING

As stated last year, there is a lot of evidence of all the effort and thought that goes into the landscaping around Leighlinbridge. It is joy to experience these wonderful displays. The development at the riverside is most commendable. This is an excellent achievement and will be a valuable resource to the village over the coming years for both residents and visitors. Well done on another excellent presentation.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The plans you have under this heading are most commendable and it is good that you have such a working relationship with the national park and wildlife service which you mentioned in your plan. You have undertaken a lot of appropriate planting and hopefully the nesting boxes will be welcomed by those creatures who choose to use them. Involve the school children in learning about the habitats in the area. It is clear that there must be a lot of support in the village from the community. Well done on your excellent progress.

LITTER CONTROL

Hardly any evidence of litter was to be seen around the town on the day of the adjudicators visit. The riverbank also looked very clear of rubbish. Well done on achieving an excellent standard

again this year, obviously the co-operation of everybody is paying off.

TIDINESS

While the standard overall is good, there were some incidental spaces to the side of buildings which looked somewhat neglected. It is recommended that you try to encourage business owners to restrict the amount of postering in their shop windows. This does create a somewhat untidy impression overall in a village and detracts from the beauty of shopfronts. Well done on a good overall standard again this year.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential areas are very well presented. The open space at the single storey cottages behind the church was in need of mowing. The new houses along the Kilkenny Road look well. It is important to watch out for inappropriate growth at the entrances.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard overall is very good. Has some consideration being given to the question of the derelict cottage along the Kilkenny road opposite the new houses. The boundary walling all along this road is to be highly commended. There was occasional evidence of weeds at kerbsides around the town, but generally the standard was very good.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Well done on your increase in marks again this year. At this level of the competition, it is difficult to gain additional marks. The one weakness in the overall presentation of the appearance of some business premises around the town where, as mentioned, under Built Environment, replacement of shopfronts and a general freshening up would be a good idea in regard to some of these premises. The landscaping undertaken this year is most impressive and adds to an overall very positive impression about the village. Leighlinbridge is a well cared for village which is a joy to visit.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/98)

It is unfortunate that the laying of watermains has somewhat impeded Leighlinbridge's impressive three-year development plan - but there is no doubt that this will pave the way, so to speak, to the ducting of your cables and the installation of improved lighting standards in due course. As it is, there are other delights on view: nowhere can such enormous hanging baskets and clusters of blossoms in window boxes have been seen! It is wonderful that use is now being properly made of the riverine location. Stone and water are the two most important elements of this village, and these are gradually regaining the pre-eminence which they held long ago, due to the efforts of the Improvement Group. The

concrete block walls erected a generation ago should be gradually replaced as funds permit, and, when further housing is needed, the local authority should be encouraged to provide infill housing in the older parts of the village, as has been done so successfully elsewhere. Congratulations on an exceptionally fine entry.