

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	12
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	12	12
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	21
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	158	156

Bailieboro, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This adjudicator would like to thank you for your completed questionnaire map, and supporting material, they were very helpful. The B.D.A. strategy document outlines the successful developments to date, and demonstrates the community's interest in developing their town. As mentioned in the previous year's report, you are now requested to include a simple long-term work programme for the village as part of your entry in the competition. A concise 3/5-year plan outlining achievable targets for the committee will help focus your work in the future. The excellent work of the B.D.A. in developing the town is acknowledged. Your work with them, local organisations and businesses is also praiseworthy. This continued relationship will greatly assist you in achieving the goals you set yourself in your Tidy Towns Work Programme.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Bailieboro is fortunate to have the traditional main street intact, and framed at opposite ends by the Church of Ireland and the Market House and the attractive Masonic Lodge. All of which looked well presented and maintained. The overall presentation of both commercial and private premises in the main street, was good on the day of adjudication with most properties being brightly painted and well-maintained. In particular Blacks and Hanleys looked well with their attractive flower features, Birds of May and the House of Flowers were also attractively presented. The flowerbeds outside the First National and the Market House were also noted. There are other opportunities for flower features within the town that would enhance the already colourful streetscape. Some window boxes on The Bank of Ireland for instance would look well. Whilst acknowledging the many traditional and well maintained facades on the Main Street, last years comments still apply regarding the issue of plastic signs, and features on many buildings. The Tourist Office was nicely located in the former Methodist Church, but the builders providers and surrounding yards on this Shercock Road remain very unsightly. This varied standard of maintenance and presentation was obvious on all the side streets and some approach roads, with some buildings looking almost derelict for need of attention. However, the attractive individual efforts of some property owners were noted in these areas also. The Catholic Church looked well, and attractively presented, although the shrub bed still needs some attention. The dual use of the Car Park as a Tennis Court was also noted, which answered last years suggestion. The Presbyterian Church and attached buildings also looked very well. The Community College has a lovely setting, but the building itself could be brightened up. The new Car Park is a welcome and useful addition to the Town. The disabled parking area next to the street access was noted. There are some untidy buildings in front of the Masonic Lodge that also need some attention, as does the

grass area at the Telecom Sub-station in Ann Street. The National School in this area along with its basketball court and playing area looks very sad, and needs some attention to bring it all back to a presentable and inviting state. The school buildings that are close to the Tangralee Housing development look a little more inviting with its shrub bed and trees. Paddy Reily's Texaco Station had a particularly tidy forecourt with an attractive flowerbed, as did the Top Filling station with its tidy shrub bed.

LANDSCAPING

The new walls throughout the town look well, as do the new footpaths on the Cavan Road. The Town Lake project is a great asset to the town, and conveniently located to both the housing developments and town centre. It is also very important to maintain an area like this. Grass should be cut regularly, drains and paths kept clear, and also keep it litter free. Some litter was evident in the area on the day of adjudication, the area needs some appropriate litterbins. The small flowerbeds were noted at two of the approach road town signs. The one at the Virginia Road has some nice stone work that is blocked from sight by a ditch. There are still plenty of opportunities for further landscaping, that would enhance the streetscape and highlight the many interesting features in the town. The new amenity area was also noted, with its lovely stone walls. The attractive shrub bed was noted at the Kells junction, with its well-chosen selection of plants that will provide colour and content throughout the year. The latter is a factor to be considered for all future planting. The new people's park is also coming along and we look forward to its completion.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The town is fortunate to have the Town Lake in its environs. There are many opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats and the environment within this area. Open spaces, ponds and water, meadows and grass areas and hedgerows all offer opportunities for development here. A guided nature trail might also be an option. Work with a local wildlife expert and relevant local bodies to develop this area further.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter in evidence on the day of adjudication, both on the main street, and on the road up to the Woodview Estate. The litterbins in the town were tidy and in good order. Continue to develop your education programme in the local schools, it is a worthwhile effort. Talk to the children as well as the School Principles, run a competition, or a litter awareness week.

TIDINESS

The overall impression of the main street was one of general tidiness. Duff & Mc Cartneys Cootes, and Moynaghs all had produce on the street that could easily interfere with access for those with disabilities. It is also important to keep the forecourts,

yards, boundary walls and alleyways tidy and weed free throughout the town. On the Main Street, most of the alleyways had gates that disguised backyards and rear access's, although an odd one needed to be repaired or repainted. There are still some storage yards and open spaces on the Kingscourt and Shercock approach roads, and on back streets that need to be tidied or screened.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many houses throughout the town and on approach roads, were generally well presented, with some attractive hedges, lawns and flower features. The Tangdragee Estate has a nice green area, the grass is cut and the tree's are doing well, the sign at the entrance needs to be replaced, and the road surface and kerbing needs some attention. The houses were generally well presented with some nice gardens. Similarly the Dunbannon area also has some nicely presented houses and gardens, but weeds on the footpaths need to be removed. The grass was kept tidy on the immediate roadside, some litter was evident also and the road surface needs some attention. While this adjudicator acknowledges that Cavan Partnership is involved with some development work in the Woodview Estate, this whole area needs attention. An poor road gives the first impression of neglect - litter, untidy open spaces and embankments, footpaths that appear to have been started at some stage, are some of the problems in this area. An old stone building that can be seen from quite a distance away, stands in an untidy area. Some individual homeowners have nicely presented homes and gardens that only highlight the neglect of others. There was one simple tree and flower feature noted in this development. The small development at the end of Anne street looks well, but the road surface and open area around it also needs attention.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Many of last years comments still apply this year, particularly regarding dereliction, open areas and road surfaces throughout the town and on some approach roads. Some signs also need attention, and some directional signs need to be replaced. Derelict or untidy sites should be screened or tidied on the approach roads. The hedges and grass verges on all the approach roads were tidy and well maintained, without compromising the wildlife. Similarly the footpaths were generally well maintained and weed free on all the approach roads. Well done for this good effort. The dump road was also tidy and well maintained, but the area around the entrance to the Catholic Church needs attention. The entrance to the new Car Park has still to be tidied up. There is also an opportunity for making an attractive landscape feature in this area. The new stone walls and footpaths look well. The committee has got to sustain this effort, working with the relevant local bodies to ensure that a similar high standard of presentation becomes standard throughout the town.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Bailieboro a fine traditional market town that continues to steadily develop. It now needs to focus on its overall presentation, so that the standard of the Main Street is carried through to other areas of the town. Your partnership with local bodies, community organisations are showing effect. We look forward to seeing the Tidy Towns Committee's simple Three Year Work Programme next year, where we will see the committees plans for assisting Bailieboro reach its full potential, in the future.