

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BELTURBET**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-98

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1998 | Mark Awarded 1997 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 33 | 33 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 30 | 28 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 26 | 25 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 18 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 28 | 28 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 15 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 18 | 17 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 26 | 26 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 201 | 199 |

Belturbet, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You obviously are a dedicated committee and the 4 year work programme as outlined is ambitious and will require the full support of the Community, County Council and Government Agencies all working in harmony with Belturbet Tidy Towns Committee. Do not adopt unrealistic targets - a limited number of projects which are achievable each year is far more likely to achieve results which will increase Belturbet's rating in the competition. Give consideration to sub-committees who will undertake specific tasks from your work programme. Build on your environmental and heritage attractions. Thank you for the questionnaire and support documentation - much appreciated by the adjudicator.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Commercial buildings in general continue to improve in presentation and the churches, schools, convent and St. Bricins are all well cared for. The adjudicator noted work is progressing on the side wall at the Garda Station and this is commended and a positive response to criticism contained in last year's report - well done. Tip Top continues to be a problem and because of its prominent location an immediate up-grading of the building should be encouraged. You have again been marked well under this heading - continue to promote the removal of plastic signs and the greater use of window boxes/hanging baskets which will enhance and brighten up the streetscape. The adjudicator was disappointed to note the storage of beer kegs/gas bottles on footpaths - this should be discouraged as they are not only unsightly but also a source of inconvenience to pedestrians.

LANDSCAPING

This adjudicator was very impressed with the extensive landscaping on the Cavan Road - very tastefully delivered and creating an attractive and colourful approach to the town. When road works have been completed on the Ballyconnell approach your committee should consider an attractive landscaping programme which will enhance this area. Morrissey Park also provides you with an opportunity for enhancement to include shrubs and perennial flowers. Continue to give landscaping a priority rating in your work programme and remember that trees are most important in the urban landscape.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The River Erne dominates the town and to a large extent defines its character. The high amenity value of its environs should be protected at all times and a high level of maintenance is required to maximise its potential as a major amenity. The adjudicator was concerned to note the presence of abandoned derelict cars on the access road to Turbet Island Car Park. The car park itself was in a state of neglect and this whole area requires immediate attention. The river bank amenity areas were presented well and in much use by visitors enjoying picnics in a pleasant and relaxing environment. The Emerald Star Cruiser Base also looked well, however, the access road and forecourt area is in need of resurfacing. The area adjacent to the tennis courts also looked well and the wooden stakes are an eye catching feature. This adjudicator would like to see you undertake a wildlife project for next year - this should be done in association with the school and with advice and guidance from ENFO (the Environmental Information Service) and local wildlife experts. Tubert Island is an obvious location and should be designated a litter free zone.

LITTER CONTROL

Belturbet was almost litter free on adjudication day except for in the area of VIVO on the Cavan Road. Do monitor the condition of litter bins on a regular basis. You have performed well under this heading.

TIDINESS

The general appearance of Belturbet was one of tidiness - as already stated the town was relatively litter free and this is a big help. However, the adjudicator did notice the roadside storage of sand and gravel and this should be discouraged. As mentioned in last years report the risers of the step to Bridge Street should be re-whitewashed - perhaps the poor weather conditions this year have not helped. Most spaces and side entrances were neat and tidy, however, in some cases the condition of boundary walls and open spaces might be presented better.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties were in the main well presented with few exceptions. The housing estate on the Cavan Road was most impressive with a combination of well presented houses and newly landscaped open spaces. In general standards under this heading were to the satisfaction of the adjudicator.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Cavan Road looked well with attractive verges and nicely presented open spaces - the contribution of the residents and local authority is significant in this regard. The Ballyconnell Road, hopefully, will be presented to a similar high standard when the extensive road works currently taking place are completed. Do improve the presentation of directional signposting and repair where necessary. Streets and back areas still need attention. To maintain the environmental quality of approach roads and open spaces do give serious consideration to the planting of trees in such suitable locations as new housing areas, around car parks and along streets where suitable. Your 1999 work programme, as outlined, will require a lot of support from the local authority if it is to be implemented in full!

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Very steady progress has been achieved, however, a more focused and co-ordinated approach is now necessary if you are to expedite progress.