

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	37
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	30	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	230	231

Bagenalstown, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Bagenalstown has many attributes, which are being well utilised but have also some potential for further improvements. An overall plan for the coming three to five years is really essential, to see the prospects and the areas where efforts are going to be placed.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are many fine buildings in Bagenalstown. The railway station is particularly interesting. Some work on tidying the surrounding areas would be helpful. The Daniel McGrath memorial hall could also benefit with some attention to the front area. The Church of Ireland with its surrounds of mature Lime trees is remarkable. The library and well presented railings and planted borders is a great success. The old Astor building is looking a little tired. Removal of overhead cables would be a great advance. The shrubbery opposite the railway house and bar is not enhanced by the pole. Pressure should be brought to bear to have such poles and cables put underground. The public toilets are well cared for and the pitcher sculptures are very attractive and interesting. O Duinns is an interesting shop front with its unusual window frames of stone. There is a wide range of shop front types and maintenance. While many have made great efforts, this shows up the less cared for shop fronts.

LANDSCAPING

There are a number of landscape projects. The roundabout on entry from Leighlinbridge is well featured. Is the white tubular caging really necessary? The park behind the courthouse is nicely planted with low maintenance and simple lines. A little more attention to the standard of grass care would be helpful. The most impressive aspect of the landscaping in this town is the presence of so many large trees right in the centre, for example the big lime trees by the school on the road to the railway station and the magnificent limes in the church of Ireland grounds. Where the new plantings of these trees intended when the existing ones are no longer? The Fr. Cummins estate in contrast has enormous greens without a single tree. How can a town that must value the existing trees choose to ignore these enormous green deserts? Some more container plantings would brighten up the streets and the shrubbery along the road of the Presentation convent helps soften this road.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river is an obvious advantage and creates great wildlife possibilities and attractions. The walk by the canal is very attractive and a marvellous asset for the town. More action is required under this heading to avail of the full potential.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter, as in so many places in Ireland, continues to be a problem. Litter was noted in some areas and extra vigilance is needed to overcome this problem. However, in other areas, litter control is a success.

TIDINESS

Overall there is a tidy appearance to Bagenalstown. In many places there is weedy grass at kerbs; some footpaths need attention to broken surfaces and there are a number of uncared for sites. A plan highlighting an inventory of these aspects would be useful and schemes to tackle them could then be devised.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual homes are well cared for and a great contribution can be made by every homeowner to make the best of their surrounds. Both Conway and Fr. Cummins estates are very disappointing in a town that has such an appreciation of the value of trees in the environment.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There is a good standard of roads generally. The entrance by the waterfront makes a beautiful setting. The Tullow Machinery building is well screened with trees which is a very important aspect. The attractive stone walls and mature trees lend great character to the roads in and around Bagenalstown. Attention to kerb weeds and broken footpath surfaces would be helpful. The riverside – dockside road, offers potential for improvement.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a reasonably good standard of roadways. As stated, some attention to kerbing is needed and also to footpaths. The entrance by the river is spectacular. Some attention is needed as mentioned already. A plan is essential to progress the situation now.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/99)

It is a pleasure to be able to support the increase in marking proposed by the first adjudicator. While litter control was not as effective as one would wish, standards were maintained or improved in other categories. It was a real joy to see the beautifully kept grassed and wooded spaces alongside the River Barrow in the lower part of the town. Congratulations.