

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	31	32
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	246	245

Leighlinbridge, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The entry form and information supplied was most helpful – thank you. The development proposals are exciting and represent a continuation of the great work that has made this village such a pleasure to visit. By good co-operation with residents and authorities you will succeed in making Leighlinbridge an even better place.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The stone buildings lend great character to the village. Walls, such as at the lay-by at the entry from the Carlow road, are invaluable. The bridge with its great display of red valerian, and also its great age, offer a unique asset to the town. The restoration of Black Castle is a very good project. The old castle and malt house remains add further to the village. Business premises in a situation like this can easily become an intrusion on the beauty of the village. Since there is not as much competition as there would be in large towns and people know where the shops are, there is not a great necessity to draw attention to these business premises and a much more sober presentation would be ideal. The plaques commemorating various historic people give a nice touch to the village. The stone paving on the pavement at the side of the Lord Bagenal is attractive.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping overall is excellent. The park beside the river is a wonderful idea and gives a very pleasant view of the bridge and river and the adjoining riverside walk. The plantings along the old Leighlin road by the cemetery are well done. The planting of the rose borders at the entrance from the main road looks particularly well. So too does the cemetery itself with the nice collection of trees enclosing it. The creation of the millennium garden is a fine project and is looked forward to. The roadside planting of beech at the lay-by is a very good choice. A special mention must be made of the wonderful garden at the Lord Bagenal Pub – such a lovely surprise and perfect for the setting with excellent design for its function.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is a great opportunity for the pursuit of wild life in the village with riverside walks. Co-operation with schools, the Conservation Volunteers and local people with intimate knowledge of the area will produce a very worthwhile amenity -which is on your doorstep.

LITTER CONTROL

Control of litter is very good. A little litter was noted at the seats by

the riverbank. It is such a pity that people are prepared to sit and enjoy the river and then drop litter. The yellow pebble dashed litter bins are a little out of context with the stone of the immediate area.

TIDINESS

There is a very tidy appearance in this village noticeable immediately on entry. Many of the houses in the area opposite the Lord Bagenal are well tended and because they can be viewed from back and front have the extra burden of making both sides presentable – which they have done admirably. There is a heap of rubble below the road at the lay-by. The work of the OPW and work at the Lord Bagenal is causing a little untidiness but will be completed soon.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is very good attention to individual homes and gardens which contribute so much to the overall appearance of a village. At St. Lazerians terrace some attention is needed to the walls and railings to bring them up to the standard of the rest of the village. Some tree planting on the greens there also would be helpful. The stone name signs are very attractive throughout the village. Some attention to footpath kerbing is needed at the entrance to Seskin road. The new houses development will cause a little destruction for a while and hopefully these will be planted well. The thorn hedges and many large trees throughout the village help the residences greatly

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Roads are in good condition. The approaches to the village from the by pass are well treated and the pathways to the river and riverside area likewise.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Leighlin Bridge is a delight to visit. There is a great sense of well being and making the most of all the assets of the village. The sober colouring of green grass mounds, trees and thorn and beech hedges keeps the village in accord with the surrounding countryside. Well done.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/99)

Leighlinbridge has done remarkably well, and on evidence at second adjudication is on its way to becoming county winner, provided a number of discrepancies can be addressed, including derelict or unattended sites - such as the once charming small shop on the Kilkenny road; an inappropriate frontage - the tiled shop set into a handsome warehouse; rusty corrugated iron sheeting; there needs to be more effective landscaping of the very old buildings and hitherto undeveloped waterside. The excellent Development Plan indicates that much of this is imminent. The ongoing development at the Lord Bagenal and the ongoing

sewerage scheme did not interfere with marking - however, in regard to the former, it is hoped that trees and shrubs will be liberally planted to take the potential bleakness off this large space.