

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **HACKETSTOWN**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	15	15
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	178	178

Hackettstown, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning your application form for Tidy Towns 2000. I note from your form that you have had difficulties with derelict sites in the town centre. It is suggested that the committee now produce a plan for the next three years to guide your activities. As indicated previously, it should be a simple three to five page document setting out the objectives and progress for each of the years. It is noted that you co-operate with FÁS, but I would strongly suggest that you contact your Local Authority, who will be glad to give whatever advice it can. Perhaps an appeal might be made to the wider community for more members to get involved. It is also essential to involve housing estates, business properties and industries both in planning and carrying out your activities. Do involve the schools and pupils in your activities. At times it is difficult to work up enthusiasm in the town, but I feel that with a renewed effort, the community will answer the call.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Some properties are well maintained while many need attention. The schools and the new Fire Station are presented very well with some very nice planting on the latter. The building next to the school, which appears to be a community hall, does need some treatment to soften it. The Esso station is again well presented, but the Health Centre needs to be painted. The commercial buildings on Mill Street need attention and encouragement should be given to the owners to improve the appearance of their properties. Dereliction is a problem in Hackettstown and this should be discussed with the Local Authority, so that a solution might be found for this problem.

LANDSCAPING

The open green space in the Mountain View Housing Estate had the grass cut but would need more attention near the walls. At the time of adjudication the grass needed cutting on other open, green spaces. The shrub area on the bank behind the Esso station continues to mature and be maintained in good condition. The green area around the monument needed cutting and the grass was overgrown under the seats. There is room for improvement and development of the landscaping of the town. More planting of trees in suitable locations throughout the town should be considered. Trees are important plants in the urban landscape.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have considerable scope to develop this aspect of the competition. The river and its environs is an ideal aspect to focus upon. You have an important role to play in protecting and increasing the appreciation of wildlife in your community. Many wildlife habitats exist in the river area and also in other open spaces. Perhaps there is somebody knowledgeable in your area who would be delighted to help with this project. Additional guidance is available from the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control throughout was reasonably good. Some small amounts were observed in the housing estates and also on the approach roads. I would suggest consultation with the Local Authority with regard to putting a litter management plan for the town in place. Get the local school involved in anti-litter and clean-up campaigns. It is important that the schools and the community are involved in helping to provide a clean outdoor environment for Hackettstown

TIDINESS

There was an absence of fly posting but there were weeds evident at the kerbs and at the base of buildings and walls in many areas. Individual property owners should be encouraged to control this. It would be best done on a co-ordinated basis. Your committee should also consider having recycling facilities where the location, screening and signage should be carefully considered.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the properties in Marian Terrace and Mountain View are well presented. Boundary walls need painting in some cases. The control of weeds at kerbs and base of walls also needs to be tackled. The grass should be cut around the trees and also, the open green spaces need to be cut more regularly.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads, back areas and streets of the town need attention. They are central to the overall presentation of the town. The signage throughout is good with only some needing to be cleaned and painted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your committee has made great efforts over the years in helping to improve aspects of your town. It is through your hard work and dedication that it has come this far. Perhaps you might be able to recruit more members onto your

committee to help spread the workload. Maybe now is the time to renew your appeal for assistance and co-operation from the community and commercial businesses in the town. You have many positive aspects to work on and the problem areas of dereliction, etc are challenges to be worked on.