

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>246</b>

## **Leighlinbridge, County Carlow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Your Three Year Development Plan, map and plans for the Millennium Garden which were supplied, were very much appreciated. The plans for Leighlinbridge are refreshing and well thought out. The committee has put in very hard work over the years. I see from your application that there are only ten members to cover a large area. It is great to see that you have had an excellent working relationship with Carlow County Council, FÁS, the ESB, the Gardaí and the schools. I also note that you have a very positive response to requests for sponsorship and expert advice on landscaping from the Arboretum Garden Centre and of course, support generally from the community.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The built environment in Leighlinbridge continues to be improved. All the public buildings: the school, the Garda Station, day care centre, churches, pubs and most of the shops are very well presented. The marina attached to the Lord Bagnal is completed to a high standard as is the Arboretum Garden Centre and Mulberry Restaurant. The commercial properties that need attention were mentioned by the adjudicator last year and are still outstanding.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping throughout is extremely good. The old Leighlin Road continues to look well with the roses looking particularly healthy. It was also noted that you have taken measures to let the wild daisies grow. The long rose bed, recently planted, in the riverside park will indeed add to the overall attractiveness of this area. This park is very well maintained and is a wonderful asset to the village. The green area on the Bagenalstown Road is, as all others, very well presented. The raised bank across the road from the Riverside Park is well kept. A tremendous effort has been put into the Millennium Garden on Ballyknocken Hill. It is a wonderful idea and the theme chosen is very refreshing. The creating of six small gardens, each with a different theme, peace, happiness, friendship, reconciliation, hope, harmony and eternity depicted by stones, trees and shrubs, illuminated by lights and lined by gravel paths is a delightful creation. When the shrubs and trees mature it will become a serene place for the community.

On the day of adjudication there was still work outstanding but it should be finished by the second adjudication. As mentioned in last year's report, the development of the Lord Bagnal is now completed and it looks splendid. Considerable planting of trees and plants has been done

throughout. It will take time for the trees and shrubs to mature.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

To date you have played an important role in protecting and increasing the wildlife value of your community and have identified the wildlife habitats in your area. The river is a huge asset to you and as mentioned in your plan the riverbanks have an array of birds and wild flowers. At this stage, perhaps, you could provide information signs where appropriate and produce a leaflet listing the wildlife habitats throughout the village.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control throughout the village is very good with just a few small pieces near the picnic table and under a few of seats by the river. There were also, a few pieces by the day care centre. Your arrangements put in place for the prevention and control of litter on an ongoing basis is extremely good. You have involved the community, the schools and I note, in particular, in your plan, that Carlow County Council has appointed a litter warden and that a litter management agreement has been drawn up between the council and the committee. This is to be welcomed.

## **TIDINESS**

There was no evidence of fly-posting or graffiti throughout the village. The control of weed growth at the base of buildings, walls and kerbs was very good. The area down from the riverside garden, under the bridge needs weeding. Further on, the grass has been cut there. I note from your plan that you are going to provide recycling facilities. This is to be welcomed. No doubt it will be located in a suitable area in the village where it is accessible to the local community while remaining unobtrusive.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The residential areas throughout the village are very well presented for the most part. The community is making great efforts to present homes and gardens in the best light. Most of the houses in St Lazerian's Terrace are very well presented but some of the boundary walls need attention. Again, on High Street the houses look lovely but the base of the railings need attention in some instances. Houses on Seskin Road area are well presented. Properties on the Kilkenny Road have to finish their walls and the areas outside them. It is good to see that householders take such pride in their properties and that more improvements are forthcoming.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

All the approach roads coming into the village were very well presented. The car park at the church was very well maintained. Work was ongoing on the new footpath on the Old Leighlin Road. The presentation of the bridge was extremely good but the signposts need cleaning and painting.

The bi-lingual street nameplates look most attractive. I note from your plan that you intend to commence repairing the stone wall surrounding the riverside park in the Autumn and that you also intend to stone face the wall outside the tennis court on the Tullow Road. Work is still continuing on the old stone wall on the Rathvinden Road. A very nice job is being done with this.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

One does see that the committee and the community in Leighlinbridge are making tremendous efforts to improve the presentation of the village. Your trojan efforts over the years have enhanced and improved the overall presentation of the area. A lot of hard work has gone into bringing it to this stage. I would encourage you to continue to keep up the work and stick with your plans for the years ahead. Your tireless effort is, no doubt, very much appreciated by the community at large. Well done to all concerned.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (01/08/00)**

The second adjudicator is just as enthusiastic about Leighlinbridge as the first. It is clear that the vast majority of the townspeople are deeply committed and proud of their village. Every effort must be made now to encourage the remainder to become involved and at least maintain their own property properly. The cheerful paint colours and new road surfacing created a pleasant ambiance. The new footpaths and litter bins are also a welcome improvement. The green areas were well mown and planting was beautiful. The verges, trees and young hedging with views to the river along the Carlow approach created a wonderful first impression. By contrast the stone walls and trees on the Kilkenny approach create an ordered mature impression. The Millennium Garden will be a valuable asset as it settles in.