

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	238	233

Bagenalstown, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your comprehensive plan to run for the next four years and your map of the town which was most helpful on adjudication day. Your work programme is very comprehensive and you have a very good working relationship with the Local Authority and other agencies. The benefits of this are to be seen throughout the town. When all the items are completed on the plan it will certainly enhance your town and make it a lovely place to work and live in. You have set out a number of objectives to be achieved each year. Having read through the plan there is a considerable amount of work to be done. You do need more members on your Committee and it is noted that you have established new committees for all residential areas. This should be of enormous benefit to you in the plan of work that lies ahead. Do bring all the commercial business owners on board and it will be of assistance to them in improving their own properties.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public buildings throughout are maintained in very good condition. The Churches are kept clean, neat and tidy and presented to a very high standard. The Church in the town centre had some lovely roses but the railings would need to be painted. Again the Schools' maintenance is very good and they take great care to present them well. The Courthouse, Fire Station, Health Centre, Post Office and commercial Banks are all in good condition. The Library building has a delightful colour scheme and is a wonderful asset to that street. The appearance of the McGrath Hall has improved this year and the shops, pubs and other businesses in the town are making a very good effort in presenting their properties in a good light. Again it is important that the built environment reflects your heritage and perhaps the Committee might encourage bilingualism in signage. Continue to encourage business proprietors to remove any plastic signs or signage and replace it with more traditional type. The more industrial type commercial enterprises do need to improve their appearance, in some cases, they might also work on the landscaping of their properties both inside and outside their boundaries. The Railway Station building and platform was looking its best with shrubs, roses and plants maintained beautifully.

LANDSCAPING

The maintenance and management of the open green spaces and the Park is again very good this year. The Park was presented to a very high standard and the shrubs and trees were in very good condition. Also the shrub bed was weed free while other beds were being prepared for planting. The shrub beds on the Royal Oak road were

again well maintained with the grass neat and tidy there. The open green space on the Carlow road again was maintained very well and the shrub bed there was in excellent condition. The green space along the bank of the River was very neat and tidy. Some new plants had been put in on the Carlow Road near the Mill but had not yet flowered. The rose display at the junction on the roundabout to the Carlow Road was again delightful looking. Your landscaping throughout is of a very high standard and well done to all concerned who look after it.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Canal area is an oasis for wildlife and by careful maintenance of this area you have encouraged its presence. The hedgerows throughout the town and on the approach roads are also very valuable habitats for flora, birds and insects. Perhaps you might provide a display unit in a suitable location for the community's information. It is an innovative way also to involve the Schools in the town and introduce them to another aspect of Tidy Towns.

LITTER CONTROL

The control of litter in the Park was extremely good and well done to all those who help to keep it almost litter free. There were some amounts of litter in the Square and on the streets, and also on the Royal Oak road. Also some litter was observed in one corner of the residential area on the side of the De La Salle College entrance. Constant vigilance is necessary in the pursuit of a litter free environment. No doubt the new signs erected for fines on those who drop litter will bring about an improvement. It certainly is an effective measure and with the other plans put in place the town will benefit.

TIDINESS

Keeping kerbs and the base of walls weed free throughout requires constant work and vigilance. In the Main Street and Square it is very good but the side streets and outlying areas do need attention. The base of the walls on the Royal Oak Road need the weeds to be removed from there. The kerbs in the residential areas had weeds, again it needs a plan and an appeal to the householders to look after their own properties kerbs. Also the owners of businesses in the town and on the approach roads do need to take greater responsibility for this aspect.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The establishment of committees in the residential areas is a very good one and certainly will help to promote and help the communities to take pride in the place where they live. A lot of hard work and commitment has gone into the residential areas and again this year it certainly has helped to improve them. Pairc Mhuire again continues to be presented to a very high standard. The residents there take great pride in having their open green spaces neat and tidy,

and their trees and plants looking their very best. The trees are beginning to mature at the railings facing the railway track and this will screen off that area. The hanging baskets add a delightful colourful touch to this area. The residential area opposite St Laziros continues to be maintained in excellent condition with a lovely selection of trees, shrubs and plant beds. All properties have delightful displays of flowers, shrubs and plants in their gardens. The open green spaces in Eastwood Housing Estate are neat and tidy with shrub beds weed free and in perfect condition. Seating there again is free of graffiti and in perfect condition. The open green space off the new bungalows had the grass tidy but the verges would need some attention. The other residential areas in Royal Oak Road all continue to present their properties to a very good standard. Also the properties in or around the town centre for the most part are maintained very well. Great work is being done by the communities in Fr. Cummins and Fr. Conway parks. The open spaces have neat grass, shrub beds and trees are looked after very well. Some boundary walls would need attention in the Fr. Conway estate. St. Bridget's Crescent is again well maintained and for the most part presented very well. Some boundary walls and railings need attention there. Again when the committees are established no doubt it will give guidance and assistance to those who need it.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The seats on the Borris road need to be repaired and painted. Also the seating across from the river area also needs to be refurbished. The approach bridges while weed free do need some attention. The markings on them need to be cleaned and painted. The carpark in the town centre was tidy and weed-free but there was some ongoing work in the adjacent site. The carpark at the river is being maintained in good condition as is the area at the swimming pool. The new signs are clean and in good condition but the older ones in many areas need to be cleaned and painted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your Plan will help the committee enormously to focus on what needs to be achieved over the next three to five years. Establishing committees in the residential areas will help you in your task and lighten the work load for you. Hopefully, this will establish an evenness of presentation throughout the town. A lot has been achieved by a small number of people and with small sponsorship. You have done well to date in the Competition and one looks forward to seeing further progress in the years ahead.

SECOND ROUND (28/07/01)

Bagenalstown has much to offer residents and visitors and was beautifully presented on our second visit in August. The overall standard of litter control was very good,

however, there were a few small lapses, none of which were serious enough to be called a problem. The town has some impressive old buildings, e.g. warehouses, St. Andrews Church and the Railway Station. The yards of the 'Bolger Grain' property look particularly bad which is a pity given its prime location between the waterfront and the Main Street of the town. Many stretches of protective barrier at the waterfront are in need of refurbishment. No doubt there will be further development within the town, the committee should liaise with developers on the potential impact and possible ameliorating influences. The new sculpture in the Town Square was admired.