

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CARLOW**  
County : **CARLOW**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 27-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>239</b>

## **Carlow, County Carlow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for all the information sent with your entry form and for the maps and Plan which was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of the UDC, the Gardai, the Chamber of Commerce, tourism interests, ESB, schools and commercial premises and, of course, your local residents. Reading your Plan is most interesting and indicates that you are continuing to identify areas of need as well as maintaining what you already have achieved. The latter is also most important. For next year perhaps you might indicate on the map where new developments have taken place as otherwise the adjudicator may not see sight of them. You received an in-depth report from the adjudicator last year. The following should be read as comment on further progress and used in tandem with last year's report.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Carlow has many public buildings which were well presented on adjudication day. These include the Schools, the Court House, the Cathedral, the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church, the Garda Station, the Fire Station, District Hospital and the County Council Offices. The older part of the District Hospital was particularly well presented. The area surrounding the newer part (with access from the Athy road) looked somewhat untidy. Commercial and industrial premises looked well. Perhaps, as an environmental exercise, there might be an opportunity for commercial premises – say in Tullow Street – and particularly if it is pedestrianised – to come together to consider the refurbishment of some shop premises. Clonmel is a classical example of this and Kilkenny, of course, is famous for its shop fronts – a situation that has been arrived at over a number of years. The Carlow Institute of Technology also looked well as did the Church at Askeagh. Your comment regarding derelict sites was noted. Other than those you mentioned there are a number of other sites throughout the town which seem to have been “abandoned” and bricked up. These were very noticeable in the area of the Carlow Rowing Club. The latter also looked well on adjudication day with much activity in progress. At the junction of Cox's Lane and the Barrow Track an old bricked up building (yellow in colour) needs to be upgraded or knocked. Perhaps a coat of paint might help.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The considerable landscaping that has taken place at Kennedy Avenue, Hanover, at the new roundabout near Dr Cullen Park, at the Bill Duggan Bridge and on approach roads was viewed and noted on adjudication day. Earlier

planting is now maturing nicely and planters throughout the town are being well maintained. While the area around the Rowing Club looked quite nice, the Quay area and the Barrow Track would lend itself to the further planting of trees and shrubs which would give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. Landscaping at the Seven Oaks Hotel was also noted. The site of the proposed new Millennium Park was also visited but there does not appear to be a great amount of work to be taking place. Obviously, this will be something to look at for next year.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

As mentioned last year, both rivers have potential for projects to be developed under this heading. In this connection the Tidy Towns Handbook may be of value to you and the Irish Wildbird Conservancy are always available to give help and advice. Your efforts to date have to be commended, but it is suggested that you need a more visual project as has been done in other areas with, for example, the fostering of swans and ducks at a particular site.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The centre of Carlow was practically litter-free on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. However, and unfortunately, the same could not be said for some side street and outlying areas. There was litter on the Carlow approach near the Institute of Technology, to a large extent in Cox's Lane, to a lesser extent in some of the housing estates and in the area of the Hanover landscaping and carpark. There was also litter to be seen on the Tullow road. This is an important aspect of the Competition which needs constant monitoring. It is appreciated that, in a town the size of Carlow, this is very difficult to do on a widespread basis and calls for constant vigilance from street and residents associations and groups. Additional litterbins would help. If you do not already do so perhaps the organising of some environment talks to both Institute of Technology and schools would be beneficial.

## **TIDINESS**

In general Carlow was presented in a neat and tidy manner. Work in progress in Kennedy Avenue was noted and allowed for. It should be noted that adjudication does not just take place in the centre of the town. All back streets and outlying areas within the town environs are visited and have an influence on the marking.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Many of the housing estates in the town were visited and, other than minor littering, mentioned above, were excellently presented and reflects great credit on the local residents. Individual private houses also looked well. In all cases many houses had gardens in full bloom which were a delight to see on adjudication day and added greatly to the

ambience of the town. Congratulations are due to all concerned. Open spaces looked well and are being well maintained. This kind of support is absolutely essential in the Tidy Towns Competition. You cannot make progress without it.

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

Approach roads are well presented. Unfortunately, as mentioned above, there was some litter on some of them. Car parks throughout the town are being well maintained. Road and paving surfaces are good and town signage and signposting in general has improved.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Carlow has progressed well in the Competition. What has been achieved to date is being well maintained. Continue to plan on a 3 to 5 year basis and to identify what you can do annually within your physical and financial resources. You have an excellent Committee approach which, if one is to judge by the number of other organisations who support you, is appreciated by your general public. Congratulations to all concerned and keep up the good work.

### **SECOND ROUND (27/07/01)**

The visual amenity value of Carlow town is very high. A successful combination of sculpture, landscaped areas, shopfronts, civic buildings, car parks and street furniture and more enable Carlow town to be counted with the high scorers in the Tidy Towns Competition. Litter control was very good at the time of our second visit, the only weak spot being the corner at Barrow Blinds. An overfull litter bin at the Londis Supermarket would have been a problem had the day been windy, thankfully this was not the case. Wirescape service poles look particularly bad at the junction of Dublin Street and Castle Street and along Dublin Street. The Courthouse, Garda Station and Institute of Technology were all admired.