

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	15	15
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181	178

Hacketstown, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning your application form for the Tidy Towns Competition 2001. I note again this year that the derelict sites still remain a problem for you. You have made appeals to the Local Authority to tackle this problem. However, I would suggest that you continue to make representations to them to tackle this problem. In the meantime, the Committee should produce a plan for the next three to five years. This would be a most helpful and useful guide to your activities. As indicated in previous years it should be a simple document setting out the objectives and progress for each of the years. It is good to see that you continue to work with FAS and the Community Council. Do liaise with the Local Authority who continue to give whatever advice and assistance they can to all tidy towns committees. You do need more people to help with your activities. Five is a small number for an area the size of your town. More members are needed to help you with the tasks involved. Perhaps an appeal to sports clubs, farming organisations and commercial businesses might get more members to work with you. Again the Schools and pupils should be approached to give whatever help and assistance they can.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many of the commercial properties do need attention and it is a pity to see that to date little or no effort is being made to improve their appearance. The Schools and the Fire Station again continue to be presented very well this year. Most of the shops and pubs do take pride in having their properties looking well. An overall co-ordinated approach would be desirable so that all sectors can co-operate to bring about an improvement to the appearance of the town. The monument on the Tullow road is being maintained very well.

LANDSCAPING

The open green spaces in Mountain View and Marian Terrace were maintained in good condition. All trees and shrubs are beginning to mature and are being maintained very well. The shrub beds were almost weed free and the grass was tidy. The area at the monument again was in good condition and is being properly maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As indicated last year you have scope to develop this aspect. The hedgerows and the river are vital habitats for many of the wild plants and animals. There is an abundance of flora in the hedgerows and perhaps it would

be an interesting project for the schools in the area to become involved. Guidance is available from the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland and also perhaps there is somebody in your area who would have knowledge on wildlife in your locality.

LITTER CONTROL

The control of litter throughout the town was good. There were some amounts in the Mountain View Estate and at the monument, with very little litter evident in the town and at Marian Terrace. One does need to continually work at the control of litter throughout the town. As suggested last year do talk to the Local Authority with regard to putting a litter management plan in place. Again it is essential to involve the local Schools, which has been very successful in many towns.

TIDINESS

Weeds continue to be evident at kerbs on the approach road and outside some of the residences. Individual property owners also have a part to play in this. The control of weeds at wall and kerbs throughout is perhaps best done on a co-ordinated basis.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the property owners continue to present their places to a very good standard. Marian Terrace and Hillview Drive are making a very good effort in presenting their properties in the best possible light. Again in Mountain View many of the properties do look very well but more do need some maintenance. Many of the residents in Hacketstown take great pride in the appearance of their properties and also ensure that their gardens are looking well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some of the streets have been newly tarmacadamed and it helps to contribute to a better overall presentation. The approach roads were tidy. Some of the signs need to be cleaned and the poles to be painted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You do need more members for your Committee. It is very difficult with just five people to take on board all the work that does need to be done. Tremendous work is being done in trying to improve the appearance of the town. More members are needed to help with the workload. Again I would encourage you to draw up a plan for the next three years and when completed will help you greatly. Do not lose heart with the derelict sites problem because sooner rather than later it should be solved. More public spirit is necessary and no doubt it is to be found in the town.