

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	245	243

Tidy Towns 2002

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CARLOW**

County : **CARLOW**

Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	245	243

Carlow, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

The information supplied with the application form was very comprehensive and gives an excellent picture of developments, challenges and solutions of Carlow town. The

map was helpful in locating the many interesting places visited. Carlow has expanded significantly and continues to do so. The accompanying buildings and road network developments place stresses on the town which have to be managed. The actual building process in itself is disruptive and this is noticeable in several areas, notably with the building work in progress at the potato market area. The work of a tidy towns committee changes as towns enlarge. While in a small village there is a very hands on approach to every activity in a village, in larger towns the committees, rightly focus on particular projects, keep a watchful eye on all developments and act as a pressure group to achieve results from public and private enterprise. The survey carried out by the committee is an interesting one. Involvement with competitions is a very useful idea. With the huge residential areas now in Carlow, the residential area competition is an excellent idea and would be welcomed greatly by residents.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Carlow has a wealth of interesting buildings. The courthouse is looking very well, the railings and gates give a very pleasant surround to the building. The Cathedral and St. Patrick's College are great assets. St. Dymphnas Hospital, the Garda station, Railway station, County Council Offices and the Presbyterian Church are all important landmarks in the town. The fountain and surrounds at potato market have created a new focus in Carlow and this area is well used. The opening up of carparks and entrances to apartments and supermarkets frequently reveals back areas of towns which may not be the most attractive as backs of buildings and yards may be revealed. These present challenges to be faced The Town Hall and the Deighton Hall projects, listed in the committees list of objectives, are very worthy aims and hopefully both of these will be achieved. The pleasant little paved area to the front of the old Town Hall is interesting. The old castle adds character to the town and this is one of the key areas pinpointed in the tidy towns survey. The area around the castle is obviously under major development and this will be an interesting space to watch in the future. The bridges are a major part of the town. The new millennium bridge is a great project and when the new development area is completed on the other side of the bridge this will add a great facility to the town. The new business premises and supermarkets present a new face to the town. There are a number of older shops which need decoration and refurbishment and an inventory of these categorising their condition would form a useful project. Car parking is a major issue in the town and much space is occupied with parked cars.

LANDSCAPING

There are several interesting landscape projects in Carlow. The area near the millennium bridge has been nicely treated with planted beds, grass, paving and seating which gives a nice aspect to the river. The new park on the other side of the bridge will be very welcome. The roundabouts on the entrances to the town present new planting opportunities. Maintenance of newly planted areas in the first few years is so important as weeds can get the upper hand. There is a lovely stand of copper beech trees at the Fr. Cullen Roundabout and this emphasises the importance of planting trees where

possible so that future generations can enjoy them as we do so. The Braun and Lapple sites contribute well to the landscape of the town. The connecting parks, Hanover and Bus parks, are a great asset as they provide green space in the centre of the town. They allow a walkway to the centre of the town from the large housing estates, with little need to follow the roads and they provide for a walk pleasant to the riverside. Accepting that Hanover park is a very natural style of park, its condition seems to be becoming a little tired. Many of the plants are overgrown towards the path to SuperQuinn and there is much weediness present. The areas behind the Courthouse, towards the Garda Station, are nicely planted and will give a good display later in the summer. The Garda station grassed area needs a little more attention. Trees at the riverbank at Pennys give a great band of greenery in the centre of the town. Street tree planting should be increased and any open spaces where even one tree can be accommodated should be availed of. The grounds of St. Patrick's college add greatly to the landscape of the town. Perhaps more free access could further enhance this.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside areas offer great interest. The display boards are very welcome. The more urbanised Carlow becomes, the more need for awareness of the natural environment. Plans for the new park will hopefully take observation of the natural environment as a priority and projects relating to this could provide interesting work for local schools. The walkway along the river after the bus park provides great interest.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter continues to be a major challenge in Carlow. Hanover park was badly littered on a walk through from the Superquinn side. Much of the litter had lodged under plants and fresh litter, possibly from the evening before, was evident. Litter was also noted at the fountain areas at the potato market. Litter by the side of the Hanover Bridge was unfortunately present close to the ALDI centre. An accumulation of litter was noted by the railway bridge on the Tullow road direction. The continuing work of litter eradication is tedious but this is the case in many places throughout Ireland. Initiatives to help the litter situation would be welcome.

TIDINESS

Generally there is a tidy appearance to the town. Certain development works in progress make for temporary disruption. Such as at Kennedy Avenue area and the space to the front of the castle. Attention to kerb side weed grasses in various places and the need for decoration of some old premises will help this aspect.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are a vast number of new housing estates and apartments within and around the town. Generally the standard is good with people taking an interest and pride in their homes. The older properties are interesting. Some terraced houses, single storied, are

well painted however others need attention. There are many instances of grassed open spaces where tree planting could take place. The use of a few large trees such as beech, ash, chestnut, oak and willow would give delight to future generations and would be much more valuable than clusters of smaller type trees. Grass maintenance and the removal of grass cuttings needs attention in places.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There are a number of small back streets such as Coxes lane, College Street, Brown Street, Mill Lane, all forming an important part of the fabric of the town. These are well maintained and are pleasant ways to avoid the main streets. The paving improvements were noted in several places. The approach roads to Carlow are well presented, particularly the Waterford Road. The Tulow\Bunclody roads could be upgraded, especially in relation to the landscape and treatment of business premise perimeters on route. The Dublin and Athy directions are generally good.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Carlow has great attributes, such as the two rivers, parklands, new park potential and footbridge and also the renewal of the town centre. Great work has been done by the tidy towns committee through the years and new progress can be expected.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (02/08/02)

Carlow is an extremely busy county town with a strong architectural heritage. Much work has been undertaken over the last number of years in terms of developing the town and this has paid off in relation to the quality of life of its residents, what it has to offer visitors and its success in this competition. Do take note of the comments made in this report in order to tackle problem areas and issues for next year's competition. There are a large number of new housing estates which should all pay attention to entrance areas and public spaces in order to make a contribution to the presentation of the town. It was disappointing to note a light scattering of litter throughout the town on second adjudication day. Derelict single storey cottages on the Tullow entrance to the town creates an unfortunate impression. Carlow has improved and expanded rapidly over the last number of years and this is reflected in its presentation.