

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BELMONT**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	28
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	21	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>195</b>

## **Belmont, County Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Belmont is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. The village is fortunate to be located on the banks of the River Brosna and, set in lush countryside, was a pleasure to adjudicate on a sunny June morning. It is unclear where the boundary of Belmont is. The first nameplate on the Cloghan road is quite a distance from the heart of the village and is followed by a fingerpost showing 'Belmont 1 km', might this be redundant?

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The church looks well but there are lots of weeds outside along the boundary wall and mounds of rubble on a graveled area opposite. The graveyard outside also looks well but the boundary wall could be freshened and weeds removed. The adjacent parish hall is attractive with its planting outside.

The neon 'Guinness' sign on Kelly's is inappropriate as should the 'Guinness' stickers which feature on all windows. The 'Guinness' signs on Cahill's look very well but again the shop window of the adjoining Grocery features 'Lucozade' and 'Lotto' stickers which should be eliminated. The front façade of the Grocers also features signs for 'Club Orange', 'HB' and 'Lotto' which should be removed. Both pubs are quite well painted, the mock tiling façade on Kelly's is outdated and an alternative should be found upon refurbishment. Larry's Old Time Village is quite special and once again looks cheerful. The grass margin outside is very tidy, however the three flags on posts are very tattered and should be replaced. The Post Office on the Ferbane road needs to be painted to freshen it up. Located just before the River Brosna, the terrible old building is badly in need of renovation and detracts greatly from the wonderful amenity of the River. The same point is made for the old 'Joe O'Neill Service Repairs' sign which should be removed or refurbished. The large open space here is overgrown, weedy and features abandoned machinery, rubble mounds, etc. This should be screened adequately. The old Belmont Mills property features some nice young planting inside. Are there plans for its redevelopment? The G.R. Robinson Ltd. building, located just after the first nameplate on the Cloghan Road, looks untidy, it urgently needs painting and the old beer barrels and crates in the yard should be eliminated. A gate to screen the entire area might be considered. The Ola garage and surrounding area on the Ferbane entrance is disastrous and is a terrible introduction to the village. All the signs here need to be removed and / or refurbished and reduced in size.

### **LANDSCAPING**

A small green area on entering the village from the church road features some nice semi-mature trees. The Samaritan Traveller bog oak sculpture looks well with its nice landscaping behind. The planting at the wire and post fencing opposite Larry's Old Time Village is good but the gravelled area here is quite weedy. The small roadside

landscaped area beside the yard with the red gates looks well, but the gravel could be swept to tidy a little.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The canal is a valuable amenity and is beautifully kept. All buildings here are nicely painted. The canal and picnic area here was being utilized by a party on the sunny morning of adjudication and is a wonderful testament to those who are responsible for its upkeep. The River Brosna is a wonderful amenity, have you conducted a wildlife survey of this area? The bridge is well kept.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was very little litter evident on the day of adjudication, with the exception of the old bus depot. Your weekly efforts in this regard are paying dividends. Well done.

## **TIDINESS**

The old bus depot needs to be tidied, cleaned and painted and its surrounding area cleared of any unused buses, mounds of rubble, small amount of litter, lots of weeds and some abandoned wheelbarrows. The large open car parking area located opposite the Post Office is untidy, with rough ground, loads of weeds, what appears to be abandoned vehicle, blocks and old rusted girders, old flower tubs. This entire area is shabby in appearance.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Quite a number of roadside boundary walls, on entering the village on the road from the church, could be painted. There is an old traffic cone outside one of the houses on this approach which should be removed. A lot of houses in the village feature untidy and weedy areas outside of their boundaries. There are, however, some nicely painted houses and well landscaped gardens on the road from the church. One house close to the nameplate on the Clonmacnoise entrance features some fencing which is broken and needs to be painted. There are some disappointing boundary walls to residential properties out the Ferbane road which urgently need painting and also some broken gates. There are many nicely maintained houses in the village. The entrance to the housing estate looks well, the grass is neatly cut and the landscaping and stone boundary are well presented. The majority of houses in this estate are nicely painted and some have well cared for gardens but almost every boundary wall needs immediate attention and there were a lot of extremely weedy driveways. The large green open space at the rear of this estate is terribly overgrown.

There are some well presented houses on entering the village from the Cloghan Road. Some residential properties on the Ferbane road need to clear their roadside areas of rubble, sand/gravel bags etc.

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

As you are aware, road surfaces throughout Belmont are in a poor state and we note your difficulty regarding these. Try not to lose heart with this problem, it should eventually be resolved. The water pump beside the parish hall could be painted. Some of the hedgerow from the church road is quite overgrown and road markings are faded. The nameplate here is half hidden by overgrowth. Beyond the nameplate the approach is a little neater but could be cut back further. The information sign with details of Belmont, The Mill, The Grand Canal, Clononey and others, in the heart of the village is helpful and well presented. Car parking spaces here are nicely marked out. The nameplate on the Clonmacnoise road is clean and features nice planting but approaching it the roadside should either be cleared completely or reseeded with grass and the speed limit signs could be cleaned. Some old fly posting on a pole and a tattered flag just before the nameplate on the Ferbane entrance is unsightly. The wirescape in the village is visually obtrusive. The telephone kiosk and adjacent bin need to be refurbished.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression of Belmont is quite good. Try not be too disheartened with the limited support you currently receive. Keep up your efforts and you will soon regain lost marks and see further progress.