

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leighlinbridge**

Ref: **273**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **265**

Category: **C**

Date: **29/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	45
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>263</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful. It is gratifying to read that you have the continued support of Carlow County Council, Carlow LEADER, FÁS, your business sector, your Garden Centre and, of course, your community for your efforts the result of which were so evident on adjudication day. Leighlinbridge is now at a relatively high level in the competition which will make it more difficult to get additional marks from now on. This can be achieved through careful planning and attention to detail and, in this respect, your plan is excellent. You should endeavour to list and carry out on a year-to-year basis a number of identified projects which still could be achieved under the various headings but, at the same time, not losing sight of the absolute need for maintenance of what you have already achieved. In fact reading through your plan this year and your comments the emphasis would appear to be on maintenance and in this connection wonderful work continues to be done. You received an in-depth report from the Adjudicator last year. The following therefore is by way of comment on further progress to date and should be read in conjunction with that report.

### The Built Environment:

For a small village Leighlinbridge is well endowed with many fine buildings which looked very well on adjudication day. These included the Church, School, Malt House and Corn Store, the Garda Station, the Castle and Bridge. The Convent of Mercy is being nicely maintained and the pump in the centre of the village is a lovely facility. Stonewalls are being well kept and while building in the village can

be disruptive and untidy, this will pass in time and, in the event, has been allowed for. Business premises throughout the village look very nice. The Lord Bagenal and its adjoining Marina and car park is being exceptionally well maintained.

### **Landscaping:**

Comments made by the Adjudicator last year under this heading still apply. Leighlinbridge is, without doubt a "garden village" and a joy to behold. It would take an expert gardener to describe the many facets of this wonderful place and the improvements which take place every year. Landscaped gardens, landscaped approaches, flowerbeds, trees and shrubs, containerised planting, hanging baskets and window boxes and wonderful stone presentation and statuary are to be seen everywhere. To say that the whole ambience of the village reflects greatly on your community is putting it mildly. It is a tremendous representation of the interest which your business community and your residents have in the preservation of their environment. The village is a showpiece which could be well looked at by many other centres in the country. The greatest congratulations are due to all concerned on this wonderful achievement. The landscaped areas on the Old Leighlin Road, the Milford Road, the Bagenalstown Road and the Old Carlow Road in particular caught the attention as did the work done at the Lord Bagenal and at the Church. Flower presentations in the Main Street and on the bridge together with well-painted premises create an outstanding presentation in the heart of the village. It would be impossible to name the many other sites throughout the village which are equally outstanding. The Adjudicator can only say well done to all concerned on this magnificent effort.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The canal areas and walk greatly enhance the village also and, in this connection, the comments by last years Adjudicator are appropriate and still applicable. On adjudication day ducks and swans were to be seen on the river but perhaps a more formal project could be initiated, perhaps in conjunction with your school children and might simply consist of the provision of feeding tables, nesting boxes and some additional wildlife information boards giving details of birds and animals which can be seen in the locality. In the event Duchas would be glad to help with such a project.

### **Litter Control:**

Leighlinbridge was practically litter free on adjudication day. In fact it is to the credit of the centre that various people were visibly seen picking up litter in a number of areas. This is an important part of the competition and needs this type of constant monitoring. Well done to all concerned.

### **Tidiness:**

The village was again presented in a very neat and tidy manner and, as already mentioned, allowances have been made for the amount of building which is going on at the moment. Hopefully this will be completed by next year.

### **Residential Areas:**

Houses are being very well kept and many had lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day. These added greatly to your landscaping efforts and reflect great credit on their owners. This type of individual effort is also vitally important if the village is to progress further in the competition.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The landscaping and condition of approach roads has already been mentioned all of which creates a lovely feeling on approaching the village. Road surfaces are good and pathways are being well kept. In this connection great credit is due to Carlow County Council.

## **General Impression:**

As a result of all the work carried out over a number of years by all concerned a wonderful atmosphere prevails in Leighlinbridge. As already suggested, examine each heading on the entry form and drawing on the expertise and knowledge of your various aides try to identify other projects which you may be able to carry out which will have the effect of gaining you extra marks. In this connection please also read through previous reports and the Adjudicators suggestions. It is always a pleasure to visit Leighlinbridge and this year has been no exception.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

This is just a stunning small town and a complete eye-opener to what can be achieved with colour flowers, a determined Committee and a town than can take it. The Adjudicator was very impressed with the Committee's number of twelve, and twenty voluntary helpers. There was some concern by the Adjudicator that in winter all this ephemeral magic will disappear, but it was also seen that there is a hard core of other permanent works such as The Memorial Gardens, the Millennium Garden, The Fair Green, the Vivaldi Garden and the housing estates of Saint Lazerian, Siskin, Concare and Tyndall. All these are very beautiful and excellently maintained. There was no litter seen anywhere on the day of adjudication and the Committee should be congratulated on this fine achievement. The Church and school grounds look extremely pleasing and very well maintained. Again the river front, with its riverside walk and mini-marina adjoining the Lord Bagnall restaurant, were wonderful facilities and made eminent use of the river. There was a school of canoes on the river on the day of adjudication which looked most pleasing. Nevertheless the Committee should be looking to the future and specific programmes for the further enhancement of the town. The adjudicator suggests one important undertaking that the Council could consider and that is a major tree planting programme using oak, ash, whitebeam, beech, chestnut and thorn or other similar trees. Within the four small housing estates there is a lack of such trees. The Committee should study the planning applications for all proposed development coming into the town and to see that any new development would be in keeping with the existing fabric of the town.