

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Old Leighlin**

Ref: **663**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **205**

Category: **B**

Date: **22/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	205	203

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. It is indeed gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of FÁS, your School, Carlow County Council, ESB, Eircom and, of course, your community for your efforts. All concerned are to be congratulated. Your plan makes very interesting reading and, as mentioned by last years Adjudicator, your approach is very methodical. 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:

St Lazsarians Cathedral, the graveyard, the Holy Well and the school are being very well maintained as are your stonewalls which are a feature of the village. Picnic tables, where presented, looked well as indeed does the area of your Millennium Stone. The new hall is a fine building and work in its vicinity was noted. You do have some dereliction and in this connection you should consult with your Local Authority who have powers in such matters under the Derelict Sites Act.

Landscaping:

Molaise Estate is being extremely well maintained and looks lovely. Congratulations to all

concerned. Additional tree planting was noted on the school road where some landscaping works appear to be taking place. The new footpath to the school will be a nice addition. Containerised plants and landscaping in the vicinity of the school also looks very nice. Trees and shrubs planted in the past are now coming to maturity. Hanging baskets create a very nice atmosphere in and around the village. Maintenance of the graveyard is at a very high level and is a wonderful reflection on the community.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading have been noted and a school project would, indeed, be a very suitable way to start. Consider the provision of feeding tables and nesting boxes for birds and perhaps an information board showing what bird life and wildlife can be seen locally. Perhaps there is someone in the locality who has expertise in this type of project. Please also talk to Duchas.

Litter Control:

Regrettably there was some litter to be seen in Old Leighlin on adjudication day. This was in the centre of the village, at the school and unfortunately in the area of the Holy Well itself which was quite littered and was sad to see. Perhaps an additional litterbin at that point would help. This is an important aspect of the competition and needs constant monitoring.

Tidiness:

While your comments regarding the difficulty which you are having in approaching owners regarding their premises the village, nevertheless, was presented in a neat and tidy manner and certainly reflects the interest of the majority of your residents in their living environment. Business premises looked well and while there was some building taking place the untidiness associated with it has been allowed for.

Residential Areas:

The Molaise Estate houses looked extremely well as indeed did individual residences throughout the village, most of which had lovely gardens which were in full bloom on adjudication day. This creates a lovely ambience and is the sort of support that you need in a small village if you are to progress in the competition. Well done to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were reasonably well presented. Some road surfaces are quite good, others are in need of refurbishment. The standard of pathways varies but, in the main, surfaces are being well maintained.

General Impression:

Old Leighlin is a lovely historic village set in a pleasant rural area. Continue your good work by planning to do a certain amount each year within your physical and financial resources. It is also vitally important of course that you continue to maintain at a high level what you already have. The Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Old Leighlin again next year to see further progress made. In the meantime keep up the work.