

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Palatine**

Ref: **658**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **204**

Category: **A**

Date: **22/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	
The Built Environment	40	24	
Landscaping	40	30	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	
Litter Control	40	31	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	23	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	204	

Overall Developmental Approach:

We welcome Palatine into the Competition and wish them every success in it. Thank you indeed for all the information and for the map sent with the entry form which was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to read that you have the assistance of Carlow County Council for your efforts and also, and most importantly, your Community. The results of these efforts were to be seen on adjudication day when the village was a blaze of colour and looked absolutely lovely. Congratulations to all concerned. Although the village is small it is nevertheless desirable that you would produce a 3/5 year plan identifying on a yearly basis what you can do within your physical and financial resources. This does not have to be an elaborate and could be started by carrying out a simple survey of any underdeveloped black spots which you may still have, where you might plant trees and shrubs, where perhaps walls still need mending, refurbishment of buildings through painting and decorating, repairs to paths, roads and surfaces etc. In doing so solicit the assistance of your County Council and indeed any other agencies which you feel may be of benefit to you such as FÁS, Duchas, your Regional Tourism Authority (based at Shee Alms House, Kilkenny) LEADER etc. In the event perhaps you will send a copy of the plan with your entry form for next year so that the adjudicator can have sight of it.

The Built Environment:

Palatine does not, as such, have any major buildings to look after which some centres would consider a blessing. It would be true to say however that the railings and gate at Burton Hall could

do with refurbishment but it is likely that this is outside your remit. The Palatine House premises is very nicely presented and is obviously being well maintained. The pump in the village is very nice but perhaps more could be made of it in terms of display. One of the major features in the village is your excellent stonewalls which are being well maintained and, in this connection, the photographs you sent were very interesting. What is also very nice about the walls is the fabric of them which has been carried into the gate pillars which is lovely to see.

Landscaping:

What a wonderful display to be seen on adjudication day. Starting with the open spaces outside Burton Hall gates, the effect was carried right through the village to great effect creating a wonderful atmosphere in the process. Flowerbeds, containerised planting, hanging baskets and window boxes in profusion reflect great credit on your residents. Flower arrangements on the walls were a delight. The whole vista was wonderful and congratulations are due to every single person concerned. Complimenting this, your street furniture is very well maintained and your stone nameplates are ideal and greatly enhance the overall presentation. Your comments regarding the proposal for the picnic area were noted and this project could be part of the suggested future plan. Trees and shrubs planted in the past are now maturing nicely and compliment very much your present work in terms of the overall presentation. Identify other areas where you can plant trees and shrubs – particularly those which will give you some colour on an all year round basis.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading were noted. Try however to produce a significant wildlife project which not alone will enhance the village but will also gain you additional marks. Augment any bird feeders which you may have with some more and also nesting boxes and perhaps a wildlife board in the village showing what birds and animals can be seen in the locality. Perhaps there is someone in the village who is knowledgeable on such things. In the event Duchas will also help.

Litter Control:

Palatine was practically litter free on adjudication day. This is a wonderful achievement and great credit is due to your "litter pickers". This is an important part of the Competition and needs constant monitoring.

Tidiness:

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and reflects the interest which your residents have in the preservation of their living environment. The back of the Palatine House premises was a little untidy but perhaps this will improve in time. The car park is developing nicely.

Residential Areas:

Individual houses are obviously a major plank in your Tidy Towns effort. In this respect houses are being very well kept and some had beautiful gardens in full bloom on adjudication day which again contributed in no small way to the overall colour in the village. This type of individual effort is absolutely necessary in a small community if you are to succeed in the Competition. A few houses and perhaps some walls needed painting but overall a very high standard is being maintained. Great credit is due to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are being nicely presented with the verges in some cases having been cut. Approach roads are very important as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the village. Adjudication normally takes place between either the nameplate signs or the speed limit signs, whichever you opt for. Verges need to be maintained from there on in but bearing in mind the

recommendations made in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding the preservation of wild flowers. Road surfaces are good and pathways are also being well maintained which reflects great credit on Carlow County Council.

General Impression:

This was the adjudicator's first visit to Palatine and hopefully it will not be the last. Exceptional work has been done by your Committee and residents and hopefully more is yet to be done. Careful planning and attention to detail will get you further marks in the Competition in which Palatine has the ability to do extremely well. The adjudicator looks forward to visiting Palatine again next year to see what further progress has been made. In the meantime keep up the good work.