

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leighlinbridge**

Ref: **473**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **270**

Category: **C**

Date: **06/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	45
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	35	33
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	35
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	270	265

Overall Developmental Approach:

If one is to judge from the number of plans submitted with your entry form Leighlinbridge is due for a transformation over the next couple of years. In your own interests, however, and indeed for the benefit of the Adjudicator, it would be a great advantage to have a simple 3/5 year plan of your own in which you would set out, on an annual basis, what you hope to achieve under the different headings of the competition during that period. Work carried out by local bodies under Heritage Plans, Litter Management, Local Area Plans etc, in the experience of this Adjudicator, are very subject to finance being available whereas ongoing work under the aegis of your Committee, albeit with the assistance of local bodies, can be ongoing. Nevertheless, it is gratifying to see the interest which your Local Authority and other bodies have in your village which undoubtedly is to be encouraged. Your lovely village was again beautifully presented on adjudication day. What a wonderful atmosphere exists there. Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map. In the case of the latter, however, perhaps you would remember for next year to identify by way of a colour code projects which will have been carried out for 2005 so that the Adjudicator can have factual sight of them. With so many sights to be seen in Leighlinbridge, it is sometimes very difficult to identify where additional work has been done. You received and in-depth report from last year's Adjudicator followed by a second adjudication. The following, therefore, is by way of comment on perceived further improvements and should be read in tandem with last year's report.

The Built Environment:

All the many fine buildings in the village listed in last year's report were again visited this year. All are being very well maintained and were beautifully presented. Walls throughout the village are being well maintained. Commercial premises looked extremely well. As last year, there is an enormous amount of building going on in Leighlinbridge which creates some untidiness, but this has been allowed for in the adjudication. The Lord Bagenal, its Marina and car park are a delightful addition to the village and it was nice to see a flotilla of boats there on adjudication day. The bridge and the Black Castle are wonder features and a great reminder of times past.

Landscaping:

Last year's Adjudicator used up all the superlatives when referring to the landscaping in Leighlinbridge. To put it simply - it is just wonderful. Trees, flowers and shrubs are just everywhere – in the Memorial Gardens, the Millennium Garden, the Fair Green, the housing estates, on approach roads, at the Church, at the School, on the river bank – in fact just about everywhere. The Statuary on the Bagenalstown Road is just lovely. Commercial premises too have entered into the spirit of the competition and the many floral displays in the Main Street and on the bridge were to be admired. Landscaping on approach roads from Bagenalstown, Carlow and Kilkenny certainly create the right atmosphere for the feast of flowers which is ahead. A wonderful achievement again this year. Congratulations to all concerned.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

While not generally to be seen on adjudication day the “noise” of wildlife was to be heard along the riverbank and from the island. The St Lazerian School Project is most interesting. The hope would be that they would progress their interest into another suitable wildlife project as part of the Tidy Towns Competition in Leighlinbridge.

Litter Control:

Leighlinbridge was litter free on adjudication day. What a wonderful achievement side by side with all the other work which has been carried on in the village. Congratulations are indeed due to all concerned.

Tidiness:

As last year, and building sites excepted, the village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and with all other aspects of village life in Leighlinbridge, reflects greatly the interest which your residents have in the preservation of their environment. Well done.

Residential Areas:

Individual houses were again very well presented this year as were their many gardens which were in full bloom in the June sunshine. Great credit is due to the residents who have obviously entered fully into the spirit of the competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As already mentioned the superb landscaping on the approach roads set the tone for the rest of the village and, in the event, no-one is disappointed. Road surfaces and pathways are being well maintained and add greatly to the overall quality of Leighlinbridge.

General Impression:

Comments made under this heading in last years report are still applicable. Leighlinbridge has now reached a very high standard in the competition and future marks will be hard to gain. However with careful planning and attention to detail further good results will be achieved. Use the plans mentioned above as a basis for pursuing specific projects with the Local Authorities concerned on a year to year basis but, in addition, draw up your own plans for projects which you carry out under the various headings of the Competition within your physical and financial resources. The appearance of the village this year would suggest that you, very rightly, devote a huge amount of your energies to maintenance - one of the problems of developing such a beautiful centre. Do not however, ever loose sight of this as maintenance of what you already have is the backbone of your effort. The Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Leighlinbridge again next year to see further progress made.

Second Round Adjudication:

Leighlinbridge looked superb on the day of second adjudication. Landscaping throughout the village was stunning and a successful combination of permanent and bedding plants, trees and shrubs, seasonal and year round interest seems to have been achieved, well done! Your formal themed landscaped space at the entrance from the Bagenalstown road was admired. One wonders at the stone enclosed space located across from this not being planted. The terraced landscaping on the entrance from the Tullow road detracts the eye from some poor rear boundaries to dwellings on this entrance. The landscaped site on Church street was excellent in presentation however this adjudicator regrets the demise of the stand of mature popular trees at the site. Approach roads were well presented in general with some minor exceptions, a short stretch of verge on the entrance from the Bagenalstown road was overgrown as were verges on the Tullow approach road however neither instance presented a serious problem. Litter control was excellent throughout the village and tidiness was good. A small lapse involved a few alcohol bottles in the river which could be viewed from the bridge together with a plastic bag, however this appeared to be the exception rather than the rule. The marina development looked particularly well and the village is being considered for the Waterside Award. Your presentation under the built environment is enviable. Both the Malthouse development and the old mill which are dominant buildings in the village scape were presented to the highest standard. Other buildings were presented to a standard of excellence also however weed growth was a problem on the upper storeys of some buildings and the premises beside the old mill was a little weather stained and could be painted to freshen. At the time of adjudication the roadside facade of the Takeaway premises which is bi-lingual and much admired we look forward to the completion of work in progress and other construction sites in Leighlinbridge. The village is being considered for many awards including the overall National winner. Well done on a presentation of excellence, all involved are to be commended.