

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Palatine**

Ref: **429**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **210**

Category: **A**

Date: **13/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	204

Overall Developmental Approach:

It is gratifying to read that after your success in last year's competition you now have a twenty member committee and lots of volunteers as well as assistance from the Board of Tourism, Carlow County Council, LEADER and, of course, your residents. The fact that each household is contributing to your costs is a tremendous act of faith which on the basis of last year and this year, it is not misplaced. Your approach to development is very practical. Try to do a certain amount each year within your physical and financial resources. In that way frustration will not arise which would happen if you tried to achieve over-ambitious targets.

The Built Environment:

Palatine House and Pal Stores are being very nicely maintained and looked well on adjudication day as did your very fine walls and the village pump but, in the case of the latter, the container of flowers appeared to be dead. Comments regarding the railings and gate Burton Hall are still applicable. Perhaps in time this can be put right.

Landscaping:

Your great efforts last year under this heading have been carried through again this year and it was a delight to see. All the ingredients were there – flower beds, containerised planting, hanging

baskets and window boxes in profusion – all looking resplendent in the summer sunshine. The two picnic tables at the Kildare end of the village and at Burton Hall gates are a lovely addition and your stone nameplates are indeed very striking. Trees and shrubs are maturing very well. As part of your planning, try to identify other areas where further trees and shrubs could be planted. Tree planting is for the future, posterity will thank you for it.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading have been noted and hopefully it will come about as part of your three year plan.

Litter Control:

Palatine was again practically litter free on adjudication day. There was a small element of littering in some of the verges, but nevertheless great credit is due to your committee for this wonderful effort.

Tidiness:

There is some new building going on in the village which leads to a certain amount of untidiness but this has been allowed for. Otherwise the village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and created a lovely environment. The surrounds of Palatine House and Pal Stores has improved considerably since last year with a very nice car park being provided.

Residential Areas:

Your residents have made a great effort again this year and the vast majority of houses are being very well maintained and some of them had beautiful gardens in full bloom on adjudication day. The stone cottages in the main street are a lovely addition to the whole village as were their vast number of window boxes and hanging baskets. Comments made last year regarding a few houses needing repainting still apply but, overall, it was a wonderful effort again this year and congratulations to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are very nicely presented and, in the main, road surfaces are quite good. There is the odd pothole here and there. The paths are equally being well maintained and in this respect credit is due to your local authority for their help and efforts.

General Impression:

Now, only in your second year in the competition, Palatine have improved their markings and will continue to do so with careful planning and attention to detail. It is of the utmost importance that you continue to maintain to a high level what you already have. Sometimes the mistake is made to ignore maintenance in favour of new projects. What you have now is the base to work on. Congratulations and well done to all concerned.