

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Butlersbridge**

Ref: **337**

County: **Cavan**

Mark: **243**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	243	240

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the Committee for the map and supporting documentation. However this documentation was a little confusing. One document 'Butlersbridge Village Enhancement Work Programme' detailed tasks undertaken in the period 1997 to 2000. The second document 'Butlersbridge Village Enhancement Work Programme' gave details of activities 1999 to 2004. Neither document appeared to address the key issue of work carried out in respect of the 2005 Tidy Towns Competition. This made it extremely difficult for the adjudicator to be sure of what works were carried out for this years competition.

All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 –5 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that you intend to do each year. It is recommended that you do not have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4/5 key projects.

The Built Environment:

The work on the old creamery looked quite impressive and a good colour scheme has been used here of mainly green and red. What about erecting a plaque here to give a little history of this old building that played such an important role in the life of the village for so many years. Many

buildings in the village had been freshly painted and this gave the village a very smart appearance. Generally good colour choices were made by property owners. The properties in the main street are generally of a substantial nature. The Church building is a beautiful structure of warm stone and the well presented grounds sets off the building to best advantage. An old thatched building was noted in the corner of the Derragarra Inn car park across the road from the main property. If this is genuinely an old building then perhaps it may have restoration potential.

Landscaping:

The new trees and the many flower tubs, window boxes and flower barrells add much colour to Butlersbridge. The use of hanging baskets and flower tubs in carefully selected places adds an interesting splash of colour to any town or village. However do make sure that this is not overdone. You have used hanging baskets and tubs to help bring out the character of your village, and this is their key purpose. Many individual properties were very attractively landscaped and were extremely colourful.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The difficulties in regard to public access to the river bank have been noted by the adjudicator. Hopefully a resolution can be found at an early date that will meet the needs of all parties. In the meantime perhaps some work can be done on improving the view of the river bed from the bridge. On adjudication day some litter and other materials were noted here, and these should be improved.

In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat Survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area

This need not be an expensive Survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in one of your Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

The litter patrol concept with children and adults has produced good results as your marks awarded under litter control remain very high. Do make sure to remove the litter from the river as mentioned above. Have you enough litter bins in the correct locations

Tidiness:

At the School the railings at the entrance need to be repainted as they looked quite un-cared for on adjudication day. The remaining railings that were never painted should be painted using the same colour - what about red or blue? At the Derragarra Inn car park low grass and weed growth was noted and this needs urgent attention. The road along by the river towards the sewerage plant was quite untidy and this road and the surroundings need considerable work by way of clean up. Given an improved presentation it could make an attractive walk.

Residential Areas:

The majority of residents have made a significant contribution to the overall presentation of Butlersbridge, through the standard of maintenance that they have adopted for their properties and associated landscaping. This was especially evident on the old Belturbert road. Thankfully Butlersbridge does not appear to have had any major influx of new housing development that might take away the character that this village certainly has.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The presentation of approach roads was generally of a very high standard and the old Cavan road stands out. The fine verges, trees and landscaped areas on this approach road provide a really inviting feel to the village. Your increased mark under this category reflects your on-going development of the appearance of all approach roads.

General Impression:

Butlersbridge is a lovely village of character that has the potential to do really well in the Tidy Towns Competition in the years ahead. Do remember for 2006 to be very precise in your entry form supporting documentation in respect of what works you have carried out specifically for 2006.

Second Round Adjudication:

Butlersbridge was nicely presented for second adjudication. There was no indication in your work programme of what has been achieved to date and particularly for the 2005 competition; a simple sketch map with details of work accomplished for the year in question is a basic requirement for an informed assessment of progress.

The old Cavan road was beautifully presented with well maintained grass verges and trees of varying ages; the tatty remains of the old flag should now be removed.
The new (to this adjudicator) nameposts are beautiful;

A wild life panel should be located in the village centre for the Annagh Lake amenity and eventually a footpath should link the village and the lakeside amenity with another link to the burial grounds.

Hopefully new residents will get into the spirit of Tidy Towns to take Butlersbridge onto the next level in the competition.

