

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Belmont**

Ref: **390**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **200**

Category: **B**

Date: **04/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	200	195

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your submission detailing your plans, intentions and accounts of your progress was very welcome and helpful on adjudication day. Your ability to harness so many agencies and give recognition to the three principal geographical areas of Belmont is commendable. The BHM News was interesting to read and illustrates a high community commitment. Well done on your close association with Offaly Co. Council. The area under adjudication is quite widespread and requires a lot grass cutting and maintenance.

The Built Environment:

Canals, Rivers, Mills and Mill Stones, Locks, Lock Houses, Lock Gates, Mature and young trees, history, heritage and an active community combine to make Belmont an attractive place to live in. You have much to be proud of. Kelly and Cahills were well presented. Yates Steel Erection is very untidy and needs attention. The church, cemetery and hall are well presented at this focal location. Is the school due a painting?. The area opposite the school should be adopted by the pupils for a landscaping project. The old buildings around the canal lock gate are excellent and deserving of preservation. We notice a National Waterway Award was won back in 1992, and an endeavour award in 1998, so your hard work has been well recognised.

Landscaping:

This is one of your strong points and much of previous year's work is bearing fruit. The tree planting along the canal is superb and provides an attractive entrance at this approach. Grass control at the canal is of a high standard and also throughout the village. The shrubs at the cross roads are colourful, and present a welcoming entrance here. This area is also a little crowded with plaques, sculpture and illustrations and some need attention.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You should continue the policy of creating more habitat areas and this will further promote and increased appreciation of wildlife. Also, if you are planting shrubs select ones that will give food supply in the autumn and winter.

Litter Control:

Litter control is good and you do not seem to have any great problems in this section. No doubt the policy of local authorities to provide recycling collections is proving beneficial, so well done.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to poorly presented open spaces and untidy yards visible from the roadside. It is really a matter for private owners to keep their premises well presented and maintained but as a committee you may be able to speed up the process.

Residential Areas:

There are several wonderful stone houses well presented. The lovely flower display at the house beside the canal is attractive. You are also benefitting from tree planting of a previous age, illustrating and reminding us to plant for the next generation. We would support your intention to organise a residents association and get estates and individuals contributing to your efforts.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road structure is good throughout, but you have patches of poor quality. Weed control on verges is poor in areas, but we acknowledge the large area to be catered for. Side and back areas are now an integral part of the adjudication process and yards and side areas visible from the roadside need to be looked after.

General Impression:

It was a delight to visit Belmont once again and witness the good work of your committee. We commend you on your performance and your ability for such a large area, bearing in mind your limited numbers. Your challenge now is to tackle the problems outlined in this and previous reports and keep to an agreed plan. Just one small point - we found it difficult to read some of the text on the entry form. Good luck for 2005.