

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cadamstown**

Ref: **295**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **228**

Category: **A**

Date: **03/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	22
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	228	225

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission and outline of 2004-2009 plan for improvements. It is good to witness communities planning in advance as this will prove beneficial to you in your endeavours to tackle short, medium and long-term projects. It also a good discipline for your committee and enables your to share the work and encourage full community involvement. We also note your nomination for River Nature Trail and this will be submitted for assessment. Recent years have seen increased attention on Cadamstown in respect of its walking excellence. Likewise, the village and environs are in focus now to large numbers of visitors. Your ability to retain a FÁS scheme for seven years is to your credit.

The Built Environment:

Though small in numbers the buildings in the village are well presented and most blend in well with the rural environment. Developers of new houses should be encouraged to use materials appropriate to the area and lay greater emphasis on the use of traditional features: e.g. timber window and doors and tree planting natural to the area. The rusty roof of the barn beside the public house is now an eyesore on this focal area. Could it be improved for next year? The church and environs are well presented, although the boundary would benefit from fresh painting. The mill building, though in a ruin state, is full of interest and playing host to numerous crows nests on adjudication day.

Landscaping:

You are endowed with some beautiful natural landscaping and in most cases you should leave it to nature to maintain your attractions under this section. However, many premises are embellished with attractive flower, shrub and tree planting. The area surrounding the old mill is attractive and welcoming. Keep the natural landscape foremost in your mind when planning developments under this category: for instance flower tubs, hanging baskets are not necessary in a village like Cadamstown but we acknowledge their colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The whole area in and around the village is conducive to the promotion of wildlife. The display board in the car park is excellent and very legible. On adjudication day, school pupils were observed participating in an outing, and at the rock area beside the mill the more intrepid were involved in some rock climbing: better than I. Your challenge now is to maintain a high standard of display boards and appropriate signage.

Litter Control:

It would be disappointing if all the great work being done was spoiled by litter problems. The village was virtually free of litter and this is to your, and your visitors credit. Keep it so.

Tidiness:

Problems here relate to some untidy open spaces and poorly presented boundary walls. The old jeep at the entrance to the mill should be removed as it is quite an eyesore. There are pockets of untidiness on the road down from the mountain beside the pub. The village should consider the promotion of a painting blitz to complement the natural beauty of the area.

Residential Areas:

Houses and business premises are well presented and some have gone to great trouble to develop attractive gardens and forefronts. Again, we would appeal to house builders to finish well by landscaping. Many houses have attractive traditional features worthy of preservation.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Because of the layout of the village many premises have back and side areas very visible from the roadside. These areas are now an integral part of the competition and capable of earning valuable marks. The road surface at the car park needs upgrading and some of the fencing is in need of attention. However, in general the village scores well in this category. You have a weakness in respect of signposting. The village is poorly signposted and it does not appear on the Mid Ireland tourist map. You should contact the relevant authorities in respect of this omission.

General Impression:

Always a delight to visit Cadamstown and observe people enjoying the nature trail and rural environment. The history of the area is also being promoted and we commend you on your interest in promoting local history. Good luck in your endeavours.