

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bagenalstown**

Ref: **610**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **251**

Category: **D**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	251	250

Overall Developmental Approach:

As mentioned in last year's report, perhaps for next year's competition, you could include a map highlighting clearly and to a reasonable scale the projects which you have conducted over the previous year. Also include areas of interest to the adjudicator, especially projects for which you have submitted nominations. Bagenalstown Improvement Group has a distinct interest and enthusiasm for the protection of their environment.

The Built Environment:

The attractive stone walls of Carlow Fencing on approach roads were greatly admired and their retention and maintenance is to be commended and encouraged! Bagenalstown has a fine stock of buildings of architectural heritage and significance including the courthouse, churches, post office, memorial hall, etc. The Catholic church on Main Street looked well as did the other churches and the national school with their well maintained grounds. The Garda station looked imposing in stone and the army barracks and fire station looked fine. The schools looked well, in particular the De La Salle College. The Community Centre looked very fresh. For the most part commercial premises looked well; of note being Nessa's Restaurant, Lawlor's, The Rooster's Fast Food Takeaway, Shoparound and the Railway House Pub. O'Duinn's is a very interesting shopfront. Do discourage the use of plastic signage, there was one premises in the town which seemed to have its entire facade virtually covered in them! These should be replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety.

Landscaping:

Work had been completed to courthouse garden since the adjudicator's last visit but, disappointingly, it could only be admired from outside the gates, as it was padlocked on the day! The riverside area looked marvellous as did the adjacent Brewery Hill - this must be a marvellous place to sit and contemplate the river from its grassy banks! The limestone dolphins were also admired at the riverside. The Viking boat and timber sculpture was also admired on the far side of the banks.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife boards were admired at the riverside area. The ducks and swans, including their young were in evidence on the day!

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was perhaps not as good as last year! Some litter was evident, strewn along the main streets. More was evident on the Carlow Road, on the bridge on the Borris Road and on the Kilkenny Road.

Tidiness:

The attractive walk leading from Market Square to the riverside via Bachelor's Walk is a very attractive one with its steps leading one down the hill. However, unfortunately, graffiti was evident on the wall in this location. Bolger's site currently looks terribly neglected and it is to be hoped that the hotel and leisure complex will be suitable to the character and nature of the town, as it is in a very prominent location, facing as it does the River Barrow on the Leighlinbridge approach. A tin roofed out-building on the Borris Road will need its roof repainted in its traditional red colour before next year's competition. A lot of staining was evident to the signage to St. Bridget's Crescent and weeds were evident to kerbs on the Leighlinbridge Road in places.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was good. Of particular note was a magnificent house opposite the courthouse garden with its original features, including sash windows and boot scraper, which was being used to good effect housing plants! The estates of the town were generally well presented, of note being Parc Mhuire, with interesting statuary, the magnificent gardens behind their steel railings at St. Bridget's Crescent, Eastwood Estate, Maple Drive, Chestnut Court and Beechwood Close on the Kilkenny Road. Painting was taking place to street houses in the town centre on the day.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better. Weeds were evident along the roadside on the Carlow Road and its grubby nameplate was quite obscured by overgrowth! The Carlow Fencing on the Borris Road was admired. This road was maintained to a higher standard than the previous, in that the individual householders had cut the grass verges in front of their properties. However, the town nameplate was also obscured by overgrowth. On the Kilkenny Road again the nameplate was obscured and was very grubby. The Leighlinbridge Road, in sharp contrast, was a very good standard in comparison. Are there any plans to replace the area map at Market Square?

General Impression:

Bagenalstown, for the most part, looked well on adjudication day. There are one or two derelict sites such as that to the riverside at Bolger's yard which, it is to be hoped, will be improved upon in the not too distant future. And the adjudicator also looks forward to the completion of the building site on Market Square, as this is indeed a prominent location.

Second Round Adjudication:

The ordered street plan of Bagenalstown is most impressive, creating an almost city like atmosphere. It is clear that great progress is being made but it appears that many of the townspeople are not sufficiently committed and enthusiastic about the enhancement and development of their town. The standard at present is inconsistent. Large sheds and yards and disused buildings are particularly problematic, also uneven road surfacing, and litter on the Kilkenny Road and on recently cut grass. On the other hand commended aspects were freshly painted buildings well maintained stone walls, well trimmed hedges, the expansive green on the Carlow Road, particularly the banks of the River Barrow and all the other well presented amenity areas including the Town Park.