

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Hacketstown**

Ref: **60**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **197**

Category: **B**

Date: **06/01/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	27	16
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	197	184

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had not submitted a three to five year work programme. As commented by last year's adjudicator, although some areas are improving in the town, some simply are not! A work programme is badly needed in order that you are able to conduct a comprehensive approach to the improvement of your town in order to see where your efforts should best be made. Six people on the committee seems like rather a small number for a town of this size - perhaps Hacketstown Community Development Association need to recruit new blood and more people onto your committee? Many thanks for your very comprehensive map which was most useful on adjudication day.

The Built Environment:

Although most buildings along the main streets were presented to a reasonable standard, they appeared to lack a certain vibrancy and freshness, while in some cases signage was completely missing. The Garda Station will need painting before next year's competition - in particular its window cills, which were extremely flaky. The nearby Credit Union was also in need of some attention. The Health Centre looked fine although its boundary wall needs painting and perhaps some landscaping could be considered in this area? The stone church was also fine but would also benefit from some additional landscaping. The Computer Training Centre in blue looked well and its interesting limestone sculpture was much admired. A curved roofed outbuilding opposite the National School was rather interesting but appeared somewhat neglected. The new Fire Station was

admired as was the new Sports Hall to Colaiste Eoin, although some staining was evident below the coping of its boundary wall.

Landscaping:

There is scope for further development in this aspect of the competition, as noted elsewhere in this report. Some attractive and colourful hanging baskets were evident along the main street of the town but this simply is not enough! You need to target key areas within the town for development as incidental landscaped spaces - particularly as there are many potentially interesting locations for these, given the number of empty sites and plots within the town. The relatively new trees along each side of Main Street and those opposite the National School were greatly admired

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife information board at Marian Terrace was noted and admired. There is scope for furthering this aspect of the competition - consult your Tidy Towns handbook for ideas in relation to wildlife projects you can implement, such as the sowing of wildflower gardens, providing of nesting boxes etc. Get the local schoolchildren and local experts involved in this regard.

Litter Control:

Litter control was a problem last year in your entry for the competition. The standard this year seemed somewhat better, although there were odd outbreaks throughout the town, particularly along the Tinahely Road, along the Tullow Road and to rear areas throughout the town.

Tidiness:

Weed control was a problem in a number of areas in the town, such as, to kerbs opposite the Esso Station and in the vicinity of the National School. Derelict buildings are also a distinct problem in Hacketstown. A pretty stone cottage on the Tinahely Road was sadly neglected and would benefit greatly from some restoration - the adjudicator was disappointed to note an outbreak of litter adjacent to it. Plastic bags had been dumped by the recycling bins - do ensure that these are emptied on a regular basis. There is a new award in the competition for appropriately sited and maintained recycling areas, which should be considered for your entry next year. An empty site in its prominent location at the crossroads on the main street created a bad impression and hopefully this will be developed in the not too distant future. Do ensure that tin roofed out buildings are repainted in their traditional red or green colours, as these can create a bad impression when neglected. The pull-in area by the National School should be re-surfaced before next year's competition. Rear areas within the town should not be neglected - there were, unfortunately, a number that created a negative impression.

Residential Areas:

Houses throughout the town and along approach roads were generally well maintained. The attractive new modern houses opposite Marian Terrace were admired, although the grassy bank in this location needed trimming. Avondale Cottage was greatly admired, with its charming cottage garden filled with Easter lillies.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Litter control was a problem on some approach roads, particularly the Tullow Road. The Tinahely Road was somewhat neglected with large expanses of cow parsley obscuring the very grubby

nameplate in this location. Rear areas have been mentioned elsewhere in this report and should not be neglected when you are considering your overall presentation. Directional signs at the main crossroads appeared somewhat grubby.

General Impression:

As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, Hacketstown is improving in some aspects of the competition while others are simply showing no improvement whatsoever. It is therefore very important that you implement a work programme in order to see where your strengths lie and which areas of the town need to be improved. Hacketstown is a charming and unique town with much potential to be a very attractive centre indeed!

Second Round Adjudication: