

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leighlinbridge**

Ref: **370**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **275**

Category: **C**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	46
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	27
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	28	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	36
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>270</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Leighlinbridge Improvement Group are evidently a most enthusiastic and dedicated one to judge by the village's appearance on adjudication day. You evidently keep a sharp eye on the progress and development of the village to ensure that projects are suitable and in keeping with the character and nature of Leighlinbridge. The high level of support you have from the local community is very evident in the village's presentation. Much activity was evident during the adjudicator's visit indicating a high level of enthusiasm and dedication to the cause! Your diary of events made very interesting reading and indicated clearly the busy nature of the group!

### The Built Environment:

The Catholic Church is a very interesting structure with its circular stone tower - both the building and its grounds were very well maintained. The school looked well. The Lord Bagenal Inn looked well and its retention of its traditional timber sash windows and shopfront to the street is to be highly commended. The bridge which gives the village its name looked marvellous and with its display of valerian is aptly named! The Garda Station looked well and the Health Centre was very fresh. Sean's Bar and Lounge is suffering from its location right on the street and hence looked rather grubby in appearance - perhaps it could be painted before next year's competition?

## **Landscaping:**

This is an aspect of the competition on which you are evidently very keen with the award - winning Millenium Garden, fascinating Memorial Garden with its simple structure listing the names of the dead of the county in the First World War amongst its many other memorials, and of course the Vivaldi Garden and the Sculpture Garden! Landscaping to the main road in front of the Arboretum looked magnificent and the multitude of landscaping projects to the approach roads contributes strongly to this aspect of the competition. The riverside area also looked well and your development at the Bawnogue Fair Green is looked forward to with eager anticipation.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

This is an area again in which you show an evident interest. Wildlife boards along the river by the Barrow Way looked very well, although will need to be touched - up in places - condensation was a problem for a number of them. The magnificent display of wild daisies atop a wall on the Kilkenny Road was admired, as were those to the large grassy bank on the Carlow Road. Your wildlife survey made very interesting reading and your development of a Neighbourhood area on the Milford Road is looked forward to with eager anticipation.

## **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good and the adjudicator was interested to hear about your litter management plan! Within the town itself the standard was quite good with only a single paper being evident on the bridge and another on the Carlow Road. However, quite a number were spotted along the Barrow Walk which was most unfortunate!

## **Tidiness:**

The standard in this category was again quite good although weed control was a problem to some of the kerbs along the Kilkenny Road. Do ensure that tin roofs are painted in their traditional red or green colours and are not neglected when considering overall presentation. The recycling area was well maintained but perhaps you could consider some type of screening to the bins themselves in the form of trellis, fencing or traditional stone wall as at the moment it looks a little bare and basic?

## **Residential Areas:**

A marvellous house behind the Sculpture Garden with its original features to the facade was greatly admired, although, unfortunately, it is in very bad repair. Do ensure that it is restored to its original state when work is being done to it and consult with the conservation officer in Carlow County Council to ensure that all of these marvellous features are maintained. The lovely houses behind the Millenium Garden at St. Lazerian's Terrace looked magnificent with marvellous gardens especially that with roses! A derelict cottage on the Kilkenny Road looked unfortunate but nearby an attractive cottage extending its area of interest to the roadside by means of planting and flowers was greatly admired. The attractive terrace of houses opposite the rear of the Lord Bagenal Inn look magnificent, as did the terrific sloping gardens opposite the Catholic Church. Again there were some attractive houses with magnificent gardens opposite the Vivaldi Garden, with their displays of hanging baskets and window boxes. More attractive houses and gardens were noted on the road to the Arboretum.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Kilkenny Road is an attractive entrance into the village with its stone walls and overhanging chestnut trees. The Carlow Road was beautifully maintained with well tended grass verges and

mature overhanging trees. The newer trees on this road are maturing well. Valerian in pink was admired overhanging a stone wall and the rosebed marking the entrance to the village was noted and admired as was the attractive grassy bank with wild daisies! Another magnificent entrance was that on the Bagenalstown Road with its well cut grass verges and relatively young ash trees which were coming along well. The magnificent stone walls on the road leading to the Arboretum were admired.

### **General Impression:**

Leighlinbridge is a village that is obviously steeped in historical significance and full of character. It is a magnificent setting for a very special town whose residents show an obvious pride in its heritage and hope for its future!

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Leighlinbridge was looking better than ever this year. With a little more attention to detail and everyone's hands on deck you could be even more successful in the competition. The Arboretum Lifestyle and Garden Centre has become a landmark on the by pass. The Carlow approach into the town had neat grass verges, well trimmed hedging and good planting. The Lord Bagenal Inn carpark was commendably neat. Most houses displayed a keen interest in gardening and those freshly painted looked especially well. The retention of the old Irish lettering on the premises facing the Carlow approach is laudable. Uneven road surfacing was a little problematic in places. A footpath was in progress on the Bagenalstown Road, traversing the well kept green. The sculpture garden with box hedging opposite is delightful. Still on the Bagenalstown Road, the school looked exceptional well; also, the stone walls and the young hedge is beginning to make an impact together with the young trees on the well mown verges. The decorated water pump is most effective. Prolific flowers on the street buildings and the bridge contributed to a cheerful atmosphere as did those buildings freshly painted. The park near the Garda station was especially admired for the cotoneaster embankment. The Kilkenny Road was admired for its mature trees and continuous stone walling. The approach road to the RC Church was also beautifully presented. The Church carpark with planting is exemplary and the residential properties in the vicinity are clearly well cared for. A few drab buildings and yards do persist here and there. The memorial waterside park is beautiful. There is scope for cutting back overgrowth on the wall on the road leading to the Arboretum Garden Centre although some wall repair has been undertaken.