

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Bagenalstown** Ref: **32**  
County: **Carlow** Mark: **252**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **16/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>252</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Bagenalstown is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application. Bagenalstown enjoys a superb location on the river Barrow and has developed the river amenity potential within the environment of the town for the use of the community. The town could be described as work in progress as many developments are ongoing, so it will not be possible to give conclusive assessment for some time to come.

### **The Built Environment:**

Well done on the refurbishment on the civic offices and McGrath Hull. As noted above there are many ongoing developments and we await their completion with interest. Bagenalstown has a lot of potentially beautiful shop fronts however, in too many instances these are badly presented and a number are in need of cleaning or painting. There are too many signs over some shops for example the XL Stop and Shop premises and the Little Shop. Property owners should be discouraged from using solid shutters such as those featured on Bargain City Carpets. Your many period buildings are an attractive feature of your town. Perhaps a co-ordinated colour scheme could be adopted: this might encourage people to paint their premises.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaped to the town were admired particularly on the Leighlinbridge approach road. Roadside margins are being neatly maintained and many feature flower beds, trees and hedgerow. Stands of mature trees at several locations around the town are noted. Flower displays are both colourful and profuse. We note many additional sites have been landscaped for this year and more in the pipeline. Your activities under this heading have been fruitful.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your river walk is perhaps the most beautiful feature of your town and the public art (Dancing Dolphins) give your river walk a new dimension. The wildlife panels on the quay are both attractive and informative and your fishing stands ensure access for the whole community.

#### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was not good on adjudication day and was particularly poor in the Market Square the offending litter at the latter location was take away litter, Kentucky chicken box and soft drink cans squashed. Well done to the school for their annual entry for the Green Flag status and to the residents of each estate who pick up the litter on a daily basis.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is good to note from your submission that you are in regular contact with all the local schools and with business interests with the view to minimising the amount waste generated. We look forward too some new initiatives to compete under this heading to minimise waste as much as possible.

#### **Tidiness:**

Singletons Lane was also littered and featured a lot of long brown (sprayed) weeds which looked quite ugly, poorly maintained gates were a feature of this lane also. Many untidy/underdeveloped sites were noted around the town, which no doubt will disappear over the next few years as their development proceeds.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Residential estates tended to be presented to a mixed standard, however; overall they are attractive. Some poor boundary walls were noted yet again within the environs of Parc Mhuire. Encourage householders to extend their activities to roadside boundary walls and the area immediately outside of these and encourage residents to get involved in the waste minimisation initiative.

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

Wirescape throughout the town is quite bad and service poles are unattractive; no doubt it will take several years for this problem to be addressed. Street signage throughout the town is in good repair and clearly legible: well done on this. We note your plans to redevelop the long rang area with the help of the county council and wish you well in this initiative. Some items of street furniture could do with cleaning / painting.

#### **General Impression:**

Bagnelstown is a potentially attractive town given its location on the river Barrow and its handsome stock of period buildings however it is not performing to its full potential partly due to ungoing development works, but in some instances to the neglect of properties also.