

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Hackettstown** Ref: **39**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **213**
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	23
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	213

Overall Development Approach:

Hackettstown is located in gentle rolling countryside and the rise and fall of its streets affords scenic views. Good luck in the implementation of your Integrated Area Plan, congratulations on your status in this respect, the town can only go from strength to strength in the light of this action plan. Well done on your newsletter initiative and its use for Tidy Towns, and of course your ten years liaison with Carlow County Council does not go unnoticed.

The Built Environment:

Hackettstown boasts a number of new buildings and some of the most attractive of these are the new sports hall and school on the Tinahealy road, and of course new residential. A substantial number of older buildings are in need of refurbishment to their roadside facade; perhaps a colour scheme could be adapted for buildings within the town centre and property owners encouraged to participate in this. How refreshing to see a church in the town centre and 100% accessible to the public. Sheerans Food Store looks quiet bad with its dated plastic fascia neon sign, its plethora of stickers and window posters, and its large HB protruding sign together with its rusted mesh gates to its side area. SuperValu banner should be tightened to make it sit straight or removed altogether.

Landscaping:

Your large grassed open spaces within the town are being beautifully maintained the one at Marion Terrace was particularly admired. Landscaping at the entrance at the Carlow road is very attractive and indeed your landscaped car parking bays in the main street looks well, together with the colourful flower displays in hanging baskets. A good performance under this heading.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Outbreaks of wild flowers were noted on the Carlow approach road and your wildlife interpretative panel on the car parking area near Marion Terrace is both attractive and informative. It would be appropriate now to either landscape the retaining bank of the car park or stone face it. Well done on your Sli Na Slainte walk and your map in the town centre relating to this. The nesting boxes and wildlife boxes referred to are an excellent initiative under this heading.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good in the town and on approach roads which is a little surprising giving that litter bins were full to capacity although not overflowing. Congratulation is due to the SuperValu staff for their time on litter control activities well done.

Waste Minimisation:

The hosting of a compost day is an excellent initiative to bring about waste minimisation and it is good to note that the school children have their own compost bins, do keep us informed of your activities under this heading and the results.

Tidiness:

It was disappointing to note boxes dumped at the recycling point as this can become an eyesore in time. Well done on you're participation in the National Spring Clean Week. A number of untidy sites were noted around the town which no doubt will be developed in the short to medium term given your integrated area plan status.

Residential Areas:

New infilled developments were admired particularly those opposite Marion Terrace with the attractive and unusual roofline. The infill development on the entrance on the Kiltegan road was admired also a number of houses in the centre of the town are in need of cleaning and/or painting, perhaps these could be encouraged to participate in a co-ordinating colour scheme also.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads into the town were overgrown at the time of our visit to the extent that some nameplates were partially hidden, a case in point being the one on the Kiltegan road. Car parking is orderly in the town centre and attractive, the landscaped car parking bays and other car parks are well surfaced and quite well landscaped also however, the one at the burial grounds is in need of weeding around landscaping. Your new lampstandards are attractive and we look forward to all service cables being ducted eventually. At the time of our visit your bi-lingual signs were not yet in place; no doubt we will see these next year. The footpath to the burial ground is in need of resurfacing.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Hackettstown is one of a pleasant town in a beautiful setting but a town in which further work is necessary particularly to the built environment.