

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leighlinbridge** Ref: **41**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **286**
Category: **C** Date(s): **15/06/2006**
11/08/2006

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	47
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	37
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	286

Overall Development Approach:

Leighlinbridge is most welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your excellent submission, which was most helpful to the adjudicator. The village enjoys an excellent location on the river Barrow and on the Barrow Way and is set against a scenic backdrop of wooded hills. The rise and fall of the streets afford pleasing views of the surrounding countryside. Historic sites in and round Leighlinbridge are well highlighted. Leighlinbridge appears to improve on each years inspection and this year was not a disappointment to the adjudicator.

The Built Environment:

Leighlinbridge boasts old and new buildings all of which are attractive in their own way. One or two of the buildings could be cleaned and or painted to freshen their appearance. The church facade is a bit weather stained together with its boundary wall and the same point can be made in respect of the boundary wall at the Garda station also. We look forward to the completion of the Lord Bagnel Hotel in time for next year's competition. Work accomplished to date looks promising; we note those buildings that are listed for conservation and those for which this is being considered.

Landscaping:

Leighlinbridge has accomplished in this adjudicators view the perfect balance between summer bedding plants and the permanent planting of shrubs and trees at each stage of maturation ensuring seasonal interest through out the year. Hedgerow is being neatly maintained and of course is creating valuable wildlife habitats. Your theme parks are an attractive feature of Leighlinbridge also. The village is being considered for the landscape award.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The banks of the river are beautifully presented and their amenity potential together with the wildlife interest have been developed. You're three Sli na Slainte walks have been noted and your plans to increase the stock of duck on the river is acknowledged also. Swans were noted on the river. Your landscaping achievements have been balanced by a strong display of wild flowers and grasses; well done.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent, on the day of adjudicating only one plastic bottle was noted in the river and another in the church car park, other than that the village was litter free; however cigarette ends at the Lord Bagnel Inn compromised your performance a little under this heading.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to the pupils of the school on their Green Flag status. We note that you promote waste minimisation to a wider community and are commended for this; the ultimate goal is not simply to recycle waste but to minimise waste. We also wish you well with your ideas on composting. Your local authority should provide good advice and support on developing this project, so please continue to consult your local authority in relation to community composting to ensure you don't breach any environmental regulations in this area.

Tidiness:

Given your performance under litter control your high performance under tidiness is almost ensured. Whilst the old mill building itself was neatly boarded and its window boardings were colourfully painted, the dead weeds in the gutter were a little unsightly. The recycling point was neatly presented and is being nicely maintained.

Residential Areas:

All dwellings are presented to a high standard within the residential estates; both St. Lazerians and Barrow Lough are being neatly maintained in respect of footpaths, roads, weed elimination, and green open spaces. Some dwellings were admired for their stone boundary walls and roadside green areas to their boundary walls. Many private gardens were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road and footpath surfaces are quite good and some are excellent, the overhead wirescape appears quite bad in some areas of the village particularly at the corner on the bridge. Street furniture is well presented and your heritage finger posts were noted, well done. Car parks are beautifully surfaced and landscaped.

General Impression:

Leighlinbridge has a track record of success in the National Tidy Towns Competition and looks set to continue in this vein for some years to come, congratulations.

Second Round Adjudication:

The large new building to the rear area of the Lord Bagenal Inn appeared to be virtually complete on the day. The front of this property was adorned with window boxes and hanging baskets, as was the house opposite. Currans's garage would benefit from a fresh coat of paint before next year's competition. New kerbs were noted opposite school, presumably for a footpath (or planted bed?). This building and its grounds were well presented, and it proudly sported its Green Flag. The church and associated and well - landscaped car park also looked fine, although a couple of items of litter were noted in this location. The building had not yet been repainted. The various landscaped areas of the village looked well, such as the maturing Four Seasons Garden. The adjacent gateway could be painted before next year, however. This adjudicator would be in agreement with the comments of the First Adjudicator in relation to the balance that has been struck in the village between floral displays and permanent planting. The recycling area was neatly presented. Weed control was a minor problem to yard area near the bridge. There is a good use of the Irish language throughout and the erection of bi-lingual signage is applauded.