

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bailieborough** Ref: **792**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **165**
Category: **E** Date(s): **27/06/2006**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2006 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 25 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 22 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 21 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 13 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 20 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 9 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 12 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 17 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 20 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 165 |

Overall Development Approach:

The town of Bailieborough forms a very compact unit with the Church at one end of the town and the Library at the other end. This makes a very picturesque setting and creates a strong identity. An identity that can be enhanced by maximizing all the features that bring out the best in the town. As was mentioned in last years report a three to five year plan is a very important way of pinpointing all the items that can be improved and developed in the town one by one. The plan can be used as a guide to future work and can act as a assessment year by year for the committee as to how progress is going. The plan will also apply a time scale so that a reasonable practical approach can be made. New building work will always cause some disruption but this is only temporary – such as the current development on the corner near the Market square. The committee size of 10 and up to 20 at times is strong and it is wonderful that this committee has only been formed early last year.

The Built Environment:

The Church buildings are very imposing in the town and create a strong identity. The Library building is also an important building feature of the town. There are a number of stone buildings within the town that confer a very attractive character on the town also. Generally there is a good standard of paint and décor on shops and business premises along the streets but some attention is needed to a small number which tend to stand out among the better cared for premises. On the New Road close to Supervalu there is an unsightly building that seems to be in need of removal or refurbishment. A number of three storey houses look attractive and add to the variety of building styles in the town. On approach to the town from the Kingscourt Road the backs of the buildings appear and some of these need attention. The Garda station could benefit from painting and decoration. The Market House is very attractive and the treatment to the front of the building is particularly attractive with the seating and paving. As was mentioned last year the number of protruding signs along the street needs to be examined as to if they are all necessary.

Landscaping:

The use of containers in the streets gives a very good impact of summer colour. The work in maintaining these offers a great challenge and deserves credit. The plant filled boat was noted. Individual gardens along the roadside especially on the approach roads provides an attractive landscape feature and good credit is due to all who maintain their road frontage gardens to good standards. The four Crimson King maple trees at the Market House look very well and provide a pleasant area to the front of this building. The planting feature at the junction for Kells/Virginia is very attractive. The grounds at the community school and at St Annes Church car park look well. Having many large trees close to the town is a great advantage and tree planting should be done in any sites that are available – especially using the large growing trees such as Lime, Ash and Chestnut so that future generations will have a similar legacy as we enjoy from past generations. Landscaping of new housing estates should be watched carefully so that sites are well finished off with proper sustainable landscape plantings.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A comprehensive outline of the possibilities under this heading was given in the adjudication report last year. This aspect of the competition is important not only for the competition sake but to create awareness of the value of the natural environment in the area. Work with school projects can be very rewarding and getting children involved in some way will heighten their appreciation of their natural environment. In the future planning this aspect should take a prominent position and a start could be made by having a survey of places that could be useful for wildlife and nature appreciation.

Litter Control:

Generally the litter situation was good. Some litter was noted in a number of places along the streets. The programme of weekly litter patrols and ad hoc patrols on outskirts where needed may not be enough to maintain a really litter free town. Litter blows about easily, litter is frequently dropped by car passengers and constant attention is needed. A watchful eye should also be made on the chief litter areas, where they occur and what can be done to remedy them. Campaigns targeted at all members and groups within the community are important aspects of a litter free drive.

Waste Minimisation:

Mentions is made in the entry form of the ECO club in the school and the Resource centre.

The Council recycle centre appears very comprehensive and is very accessible to the town. This provides great opportunity to recycle a wide range of materials and hopefully the use of this facility is being well encouraged as time goes by. This aspect of the competition is about concentrating both on the need to choose materials and methods that avoid producing waste and to consider environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste that is generated. A campaign of awareness with both homeowners and business people needs to be started to give an understanding of the importance of waste management and recycling. Compost heaps can be made for green materials, avoidance of using materials that do not degrade easily and separation of the various materials so that they can be recycled.

Tidiness:

The area around the new Fire station and Civic recycle centre could be improved as regards tidiness. Disruption due to the new housing developments causes a certain amount of untidiness as was mentioned in relation to the work close to the market square. Dilapidated buildings, broken walls or signage are all aspects of tidiness that deserve attention on an ongoing basis. A good idea is to survey streets and roads and housing estates one by one to pinpoint issues that need to be dealt with. Retail goods along the streets outside shops can cause some untidiness. The area along the New Road as mentioned earlier needs some attention to the tidiness aspect.

Residential Areas:

Encouragement is needed among residents of housing estate to develop their gardens to full potential. Competitions within the town between estates and between roads are a very good way of encouraging this. Also information fact sheets about care of gardens can be useful. There is a good standard of care and attention to housing and generally painting and décor is of good standard. There is a vast range of housing

types from the large houses on the approach roads, street side housing to the new estates that are currently being built. The service roads, footpaths and open spaces and entrances to all these estates are important in giving the necessary services that are needed and for providing attractive surrounds for living.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Generally the approach roads are in good condition and the surrounding landscape of the countryside provides an attractive setting for the towns entry. Last year a comprehensive guide was given in the adjudicators report about approach roads especially in relation to the roadside verges and their treatment. This should be referred to again as a guide to the approaches to be taken. It is well to be alerted to the standard of roads as when one becomes familiar issues can go unnoticed. Signage and road markings are very important as well as fences, walls and open spaces along the roadsides. Surveys of each approach road will help to identify issues and these can be taken to the local council for action or to relevant land owners as the case may be.

General Impression:

The newly formed committee is to be commended for their work to date. Survey work and a good comprehensive plan are both urgently needed so that the maximum benefit can be achieved within the town. The structure of the town is such that efforts will pay off when implemented.