

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Belturbet** Ref: **395**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **164**
Category: **C** Date(s): **28/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	22
The Built Environment	50	23
Landscaping	50	19
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	17
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	21
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	164

Overall Development Approach:

The information and map supplied with the entry form was very useful at adjudication time. Belturbet is a very diverse town with many different facets. The committee of 8 is a small number for such a big town and so many activities ongoing. A 3 to 5 year plan would be most helpful at this point so that clear objectives could be set down and a planned approach over the years to fulfill the objectives. Basically what is needed is to find out from all the interested parties in the town what is needed, how this can be achieved, by whom and when. A list of items that to be pursued can then be set out and an assessment of progress year by year. Involvement with residents committees is important and it is noted that the committee does this. Also involvement with business and community groups as well as local council.

The Built Environment:

There is a considerable range of building styles present in the town. The Health Centre, Garda station and Library were noted. The library needs attention to paint and décor particularly as it stands in such a prominent position in the town. Both the Catholic and Church of Ireland are very substantial buildings. The convent opposite the Catholic Church looks a little in need of attention. The old railway station and surrounding buildings are looking very well and it is good that have found a new use. The small stone Church on Bridge Street is a lovely sight with its restored fabric and neatly trimmed surrounding hedge. The post office while constructed interestingly and with attractive detail needs attention. This building is stained and plants are growing from the chimney. There are some three storey buildings within the town that lend character to the building fabric of the town. A small terrace of stone cottages near the railway station appears to be going through a restoration stage. The standard of paint and décor among the shops and business premises is varied. Some are well painted and appear well – these tend to show up those that need upgrading. The school buildings on approach to the railway station are in good condition. The new playground is a fine facility and is being well used. The setting for this is superb

Landscaping:

There is a considerable amount of landscaping around the town. The Fairgreen estate, Sean Lee Drive and Marian Park are well cared for. The lawn area near the river is also well tended and has a nice shrub collection. Container plantings through the town help to make an impact with summer colour. There is also good planting by the riverside walk at the harbour near the playground. The roadside along the main Cavan road looks very well with good grass verges well maintained and well planted. Large numbers of gardens on the roadsides that keep their gardens well contribute greatly to the overall landscape value of the town. Curtailment of parking on the main street would alleviate a lot of problem

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside walks are a marvelous asset to the town. The Turbot Island is also a wonderful amenity. The riverside walk has a good path and makes for pleasant strolling. Some more information about what one may be likely to see along this route would be useful. The Turbot island walk is attractive – perhaps some gaps in the boundary plantings would allow people to enjoy the view of the river. The shed/hut on the island is a source of litter and is not very attractive and perhaps could be removed. Again some information to help people gain the most from their walks at this point would be useful.

Litter Control:

Good efforts are being made to control litter and a litter warden was seen hard at work during the adjudication. The work the committee describes with schools is very useful also the work with the business community will yield rewards. Bad litter was noted at the entrance by the bridge to the island and again on the opposite side of the road at the bridges by the walkway to the riverside. Some street litter was noted as well near the Library area seats.

Waste Minimisation:

In the entry it is stated that St. Bricins vocational school have received a project composting unit and glass recycling bins and that St. Mary's Boys school will undertake paper collections – these are very useful and help to bring home the concept of recycling and waste treatment. The bring back centre is working well although there is a considerable amount of materials left beside the bins. This happens often when the bins are not emptied frequently so a solution is to ensure that filled bins are emptied frequently and that there is continuity. 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:

With so much building construction ongoing at present this disrupts the tidiness aspect of the town. Attention to any non essential protruding shops signs, materials stored outside shops on pavements and of course paint and décor all help towards a tidier vision. Particular emphasis should be placed on the main street areas at the top of the town by the Library and post office to give a very clean and tidy appearance.

Residential Areas:

The vast number of housing provides a wealth of building styles. Some very attractive terraced two storied houses were noted near the river close to Bridge Street. A great number of residences occur along the main street and this is very good as it ensures life in the centre of the town. The mix of business and residential works well except for the heavy traffic that must be endured along the streetside. Housing estates that are well established look well and there is good evidence of care and attention. New developments will take time to settle in . All new developments should have adequate landscaping before the developers leave the site and a tidy towns committee should keep a watchful eye on these.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The heavy traffic going through the town centre creates much noise discomfort and hazard to pedestrian. Road surfaces are in reasonably good condition and signage is good. The walkways along by the river and by the harbour areas are very attractive and any extension of walkways that would allow people walk along these rather than on the street would be helpful. The stone name signs on some housing estates were noted. The green areas to the sides of the roads are all important and these are well tended especially on the Cavan road direction

General Impression:

Belturbet has much to offer especially with its riverside setting which can be utilised as a nature reserve, as strolling ground or as at the harbour for boating. The town has developed well over the years and more will be needed to enhance and bring the town to its full potential