

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cavan** Ref: **944**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **242**
Category: **D** Date(s): **09/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	242

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Cavan to the 2006 Tidy Towns Competition and is glad to see that Cavan Tidy Towns and Cavan Town Council are again working closely together on Tidy Towns issues. The Tidy Towns Plan was not supplied with the entry documentation and the Entry Form did not give much detail on projects undertaken since the 2005 adjudication. It is important to give a very clear picture of the work that you have been involved in in the past twelve months and the precise location of each project. Your close cooperation with other local bodies is an important aspect of the Tidy Towns initiative.

The Built Environment:

In general terms many aspects of the built environment of Cavan is quite pleasing. The new Library building is a superb development. This building fits very well into the built environment of Farnham Street and the adjudicator was delighted to see that the two fine trees at the front have been incorporated into the overall landscape design for the building. Nearby and across the road the new premise for Jacksons Garage was much admired and like to the Library this building makes a positive contribution to this street. The scale of this building and external finishes of this building are quite appropriate. Good signage was noted at the Courthouse and the nearby Cathedral occupies a beautiful dominant site high above the street. The external presentation was excellent. Another building that caught the eye of the adjudicator was the Cavan Town Council premises; a beautiful warm stone and red brick building. The Fox Footwear premises has been repainted and as far as the adjudicator can recall the previous colour at ground floor level was red. The adjudicator is of the view that red was more successful as a colour choice, but this is a personal view. Broken pavement was noted on the short street leading up to the Multi Storey Car park and Dunnes Stores and this needs replacement ideally in cobble-lock to match the Main Street pavements. Some gable walls were in need of painting and these included Blacks, O'Rourkes and The White Star. The Tesco shopfront on to Main Street fits quite well as modern signage using black and gold as the main colours. The Market Square area is

attractive and good landscaping was noted here together with the interesting central sculpture. At the Cavan Education Centre damaged signage needed to be replaced and good wrought iron gates are an interesting feature of the Cavan Institute property. Some poor signage still remains in Cavan and this includes the ETra Vision premises. The Dunnes Stores elevation onto Main Street was attractively presented in the white colour scheme with green detailing. A lot of new development was noted in Cavan and hopefully the external finishes will make a positive contribution to the town. Some projecting signs still remain in Cavan and hopefully these can be replaced with more appropriate signage fixed directly on to the facade face.

Landscaping:

Some effective landscaping at the roadside was noted by Garden World on the approach into Cavan from the roundabout. Fine mature landscaping on the right is a feature of the road further on into the town just before the one way traffic system. The sloping bank down to the road here looked quite well. The tall floral displays at the Dunnes Stores car park and in the centre of the road leading to the car park bring needed colour to this area. The hanging baskets on the attractive black poles along Main Street and side streets such as Bridge Street looked well on adjudication day and were being well maintained despite dry weather. The pavement landscaping at the new Library and along to the Courthouse added to the overall presentation of these beautiful buildings. Nearby at the Cathedral the beautiful presentation of very large grass areas was much admired. The Com Smith Memorial Park was generally well presented by the small stream needed some work. Litter, timber and a traffic cone were noted in one small stretch of this stream – what a pity. The roadside landscaping along by the edge of the park was really excellent. On the Killeshandra approach road the landscaping along by the side of the Cavan River looked colourful with the well painted railings.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential of Cavan, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in the Cavan area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to the Cavan area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit the Cavan area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan for Cavan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl. It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved. Con Smith Park is already important in wildlife terms and there is great potential here to develop this area from a wildlife point of view as suggested in your Entry Form.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your results in the IBAL competition. Litter was noted on the Dublin approach road outside the Kilmore Hotel and on the approach to Cavan from the N3. The Bring Centre was well presented and the steel railings here are an excellent idea. Just small amounts of litter were noted around the Bring Centre. The signage was a litter obscured by growth of trees. Your entry documentation mentions a Schools Litter programme but did not give any further details. The provision of additional litter bins is welcomed. In the centre of Cavan litter control on adjudication day was quite good.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the community that they support to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Cavan for the promotion of best practice.

This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste, segregating litter during clean up events. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses in Cavan to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste.

Tidiness:

At the Thomas Ashe Street and Main Street junction the clutter of signs should be resolved. Similar treatment is needed at the wide junction near the Hospital on the road to the Golf Club. A total of thirteen signs were counted at this junction alone. At the corner of the car park on the approach to the Multi Storey Car Park a pile of timber pallets and other materials were noted in a corner with some steel fencing. This corner area was quite untidy and needed attention; perhaps the area could be landscaped. Some signage in Cavan looked quite untidy and needed replacement with more sympathetic materials. Watch out for narrow lanes and openings off Main Street some of which were not especially tidy.

Residential Areas:

On Farnham Street some fine stone residential premises looked really well as did the properties on the Keady Road. Beech Hill estate looked especially well and the landscaping at the entrance provided a good first impression of this estate. The high standard of landscaping continued into the estate. The improvement works at a number of estates mentioned in your Entry Form have been noted. In a town the size of Cavan that has so many housing estates it is not possible in one paragraph to sum up all estates in the town in terms of overall presentation. However the following recommendations are offered by the adjudicator who suggests that the Tidy Towns Committee bring these points to the attention of all estates in Cavan.

- Road boundary walls will probably need to be painted twice each year especially on busy roads.
- Gable end walls though sometimes difficult to paint should be painted when the rest of the house is being painted.
- Timber fencing will require treatment at least twice per year.
- All estates should be encouraged to provide entrance name signs and directional signage within the estate.
- Green open space grass areas will need to be cut frequently if a quality presentation is to be achieved. Remember that grass will probably have to be cut back from the top of kerbing by hand. The provision of a few well chosen trees can often transform an open space.
- Areas to the back of estates can sometimes become dumping areas for cut grass and other materials.
- Simple landscaping at individual houses can often be very effective if the proper trees and shrubs are planted.
- By their nature estates can sometimes have litter control problems and this must be addressed by each individual estate in the town.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The presentation of approach roads to Cavan was generally quite good though some of the verges on the Dublin approach needed to be trimmed. The Keady Lane approach road was superbly presented and the quality of landscaping here was excellent though a rough area of verge was noted opposite the Cavan Institute. Along by the Park the landscaping was as good as the adjudicator has seen anywhere. The new low bank on the left will be a fine feature of this approach when it matures, On the Cootehill approach road some litter was noted. The narrow grass verge in from the Campus Garage was an effective feature of this approach road. The Litter Free Cavan signs on approach roads do help to get the anti-litter message across. The Killeshandra approach is lucky in that the fine mature trees on this road help to extend the surrounding rural countryside in to the town. The presentation of some of the narrow side lanes off Main Street needed to be improved.

General Impression:

Do make sure that you submit a 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for 2007 and it should be updated in November of each year and moved on by a year. You will find it of great help in planning your future projects. Good luck with your work for 2007.

