

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Hacketstown** Ref: **39**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **224**
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	224

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to Hacketstown in the 2007 Tidy Towns competition. Well done last year on being the most improved town in your class. We note also that you have good relations with schools, businessmen and householders and you know the importance of that firm future development of good quality.

Hacketstown is a granite constructed town with a traditional square in the middle. Lovely views of the church and granite Eagle Hill can be seen from the bridge on the Kiltegan Road.

The Built Environment:

Well done on your continuing stock of good contemporary buildings. We admired the new town houses for their good strong, simple gable walls climbing the hill. They were in keeping in scale with their surroundings and were fronted with the beautiful new landscaped park.

We also liked the chemist shop and the small intimate scale of The Corner Pub and the square is very well landscaped and well appointed. At the top of the town on the Tinahealey Road at the school is a well designed and executed new gymnasium which is probably the new Hacketstown's best building to date – well done.

As discussed by previous adjudicators there are still many sites and buildings in the town and the approach roads which are redundant and derelict, e.g. the plant on the Carlow road with the lorry park and the Community Hall on Tinahealey Road. There is a need to discuss your requirements with the owners. Both sites are complete eyesores that need to be upgraded or screened.

Signs throughout the town are attractive and in both languages. Painting and presentation of many sites and buildings are required.

Landscaping:

This seems to be taking off well and the earlier landscaping is maturing and well maintained in the village.

There were two high quality new areas each of which we admired a lot . The first was the new 1798 monument park with excellent landscaping, dry stone walls and a very well designed and attractive "Welcome to Hacketstown" sign. The other landscaped area was at the bottom of Eagle Hill Road. This was also of good quality and is very innovative upgrading of a steeply sloping site.

We were not able to find the landscaped reservoir.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on your wild flower policy. There are lots of these flowers in most ditches. We also admired your wild life panel. The sli slainte is in very beautiful country side. We looked in vain for the sensory flower garden but the site is still derelict. However, it is covered by the most amazing cover of wild plants. This seems to be a good idea.

Litter Control:

This was very mixed on the day. It was generally litter free on the approach roads and streets with the exception of the Community Hall area which had an over-flowing litter bin. There was also many surplus bags & boxes etc.

Waste Minimisation:

The town centre is generally coming together.

With new developments and landscaping well presented. Also the Carlow approach road is well presented and tidy.

The Dublin road is presentable but upgrading of the river bridge is required.

Signage through the town requires repair and Eircom poles are creating unsightly over head wires.

Tidiness:

To perform to a high standard under this heading it is necessary to encourage all sectors of the community to survey the amount of waste generated by them and to formulate strategies to minimise the amount produced, as opposed to simply collecting waste for recycling. We anticipate a performance of excellence under this heading in the years to come given your track record to date in every other respect. The race against waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

It is noted that the process on composting has started.

Residential Areas:

The bilingual signs looked very attractive. Well done also on the new playground in Mountain View and Marian Terrace.

Mountain View development is a mix of and poorly maintained garden. The open space needs care . Marian terrace is an attractive development but required upgrading of its open spaces. The development on Kiltegan road is attractive and well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Most approach roads are very attractive with much work being done on the Carlow road which is best presented with the new landscaping at the monument taking effect.

Other roads are improving too and have great potential. There is a lovely stone bridge on the Kiltegan road

which requires conservation and sensitive development. The area on the approach facing you at the junction is derelict. Slate Row is also attractive.

Internal streets are well presented with the exception of derelict areas such as mill street and knockana road and the green is also very disappointing with the community centre and other buildings around being poorly presented. The church needs planting and maintenance.

General Impression:

Hacketstown is a most attractive village in a beautiful location on Eagle hill. It is very close to the Wicklow border and well placed potentially for walkers, cyclists and out door pursuits. Accordingly it is important that the definite potential and attractiveness is realised by dealing with issues such as all approach roads, to upgrade them to the high standard already achieved on the Carlow road, attacking derelict sites and upgrading tidiness and good presentation of central areas such as the green.