

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bailieborough** Ref: **792**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **178**
Category: **D** Date(s): **19/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13
Litter Control	50	20
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	21
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	178

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator was disappointed to read that you appear to have such lack of support in the local community given the poor attendance at your public meetings! You would also appear to have lost a large number of committee members since last year's competition, which is unfortunate. You should try and recruit more members and you could also look at the idea of organising local competitions for shopfronts, landscaping at business premises, inter-housing estate competitions etc. in order to try to drum up some enthusiasm among the local community. It was suggested in last year's report that you draw up a work plan. Has any progress been made in this regard? It need only be a few pages long, highlighting your goals and objectives for the town, and setting a timeframe against their achievement. You could use the comments contained in this year's report and that of previous years as a starting point. Do submit a map of the town with next year's application in order to aid adjudication.

The Built Environment:

The buildings of the town generally looked well cared for on the day. There are still a number of projecting plastic signs which should be replaced with those of a more traditional timber variety. Shopfronts were generally quite fresh, notably the Lemon Tree and the fine traditional shopfront of the Medical Hall. The retention of its sash windows at upper levels is commendable. The old Masonic Hall in brick, with tiled details, forms an attractive composition at the Market Square and it addresses the Church of Ireland which terminates the vista, at the bottom of the wide main street. The Catholic Church and grounds looked well although the forecourt area to the car park appeared a little rough and should be resurfaced. The frames above the entrances and the boundary wall were also in need of attention on the day. The grounds of the Community College were beautifully maintained. The Top Garage and Londis would benefit from a landscaping project. The Garda Station should be painted before next year's competition. The Presbyterian Church and grounds were well presented. Signage to the Bailie Hotel was broken and should be repaired before next year. The

simple individual raised metal lettering at Murtagh's was admired for its simple modern approach. Some Christmas decorations were still in evidence on a number of buildings and looked quite unseasonal.

Landscaping:

There is scope for developing this aspect of the competition further. Colourful tubs and hanging baskets on the main streets created a cheerful impression. Some of the landscaped areas such as that at the Virginia Road junction had yet to be planted. Indeed a number of projects had yet to come into their own, but, no doubt look marvellous when they do! The pump in the vicinity of the Catholic Church would benefit from a re-paint, and that at the Market Square should be fixed before next year. The grotto at the Community College was well presented. The benches and steps on the Cavan Road are an attractive feature and the landscaping could be extended in this location.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had left this section of the application form blank. The reports of the previous two years have made good suggestions to you in regard to this aspect of the competition. Have you looked at the idea of putting together a wildlife survey in conjunction with local schools? The close proximity to the lake on the Cootehill Road is a marvellous asset to have. Have you looked at the possibility of creating some lakeside nature walks or erecting wildlife information boards?

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. There was a light scattering along the main streets of the town and approach roads to it. Some litter was noted on the Kingscourt Road. The litter bins appeared to be ready for emptying and would have benefited from a hosing down, as they were quite grubby in appearance. A single can was noted on the Cavan Road. The "Adopt a Road" initiative sounds interesting – have you any information on this which could be included with next year's submission?

Waste Minimisation:

The adjudicator was disappointed that you had also left this section of the application form blank. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, this section of the competition is about the various options regarding waste minimization, segregation of waste and composting etc and how these are communicated to the people of the town - schools, businesses and private residences. Also, about how you tackle these issues. Are the local schools taking part in the Green Flag Programme? Are you working with the Cavan County Council regarding the sign posting of recycling areas etc? What is the current state of play regarding the Eco Club? Do get in touch with your local Environmental Officer for ideas for improving this aspect of the competition.

Tidiness:

The town had a generally neat and ordered appearance on the day. The forecourt area of the car park at the Catholic Church has been mentioned elsewhere in this report. Some graffiti was noted at the AIB Bank. Do ensure that you consider alleyways when looking at overall presentation. Try to ensure that messy yard areas such as that on the Kingscourt Road are screened from public view. A derelict site on this road looked unfortunate, as did a derelict house on the Virginia Road. The gable wall of Swift Travel should be painted before next year.

Residential Areas:

Street houses in the town centre, private houses along approach roads and estates generally looked well cared for on the day. The bungalows and gardens on the Kingscourt Road were admired. Do ensure the new housing estate on this road is finished to a high standard in terms of materials and landscaping. Weeds were evident to the kerbs to the front. Twin Oaks was admired. An attractive garden diagonally opposite the Garda Station looked well. The attractive terrace of cheerfully coloured houses on the Cavan Road was admired but the landscaped open space to the front appeared unfinished (possibly due to the new footpath in this location?)

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Signage throughout was of a high standard. Directional signage in the town centre and nameplates on approach roads were generally quite clean. Approach roads themselves were a little rough in appearance. The verges and banks by the nameplate on the Kingscourt Road were quite overgrown. Road surfaces here were rather rough but the tree planting was noted and admired. Indeed road surfaces in the town centre at the Masonic Hall were also rough. The Virginia Road was a little overgrown at verges also, the grass had been cut around the nameplate however, and wild daisies were admired along this road.

General Impression:

Balieborough is an attractive vibrant town which has the potential, with consistent work, to do very well in the competition. Do draw up a work programme for next year and submit it with your application.