

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Belturbet** Ref: **395**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **180**
Category: **C** Date(s): **25/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	20
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	180

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks for your work programme, which made interesting reading. Your objectives seem sensible and achievable. The supplementary photographs and sketches are useful and we were pleased to note that you had set timeframes against achieving your aims. The committee seems to be an active and far reaching one. Your maps were very clear and most useful on the day in order to get an overall picture of the town. However, for next year, you should clearly indicate on your map the location of your nominations for awards. Your letters to various bodies regarding presentation of buildings in the town were noted. Work with Cavan County Council and the Town Engineer are commendable. Your plans for fostering closer links with the schools and local businesses will be very beneficial to your objectives. Please include your complete Heritage Booklet with walking routes with next year's submission.

The Built Environment:

The buildings of the town - both public and commercial – seemed to be in a good state of presentation on the day. The Catholic Church and Church of Ireland looked well, set up on their hilltop location. However, there is scope for further landscaping in this area, and the former building should be painted up before next year's competition. The Post Office was admired, as a fine building of its type, but attention seems to be needed to its pointing and stonework. The library was greatly admired in its prominent location, but will also need painting before next year. The limestone figures that form the lamp standards were admired in this location, as were the figures beside the Post Office. The schools were generally fresh and neat, especially Fair Green National School. The restored railway building is a fascinating building and a worthwhile project. The gravel area to the front was a little weedy. Are there plans afoot for the other buildings to the rear? The GAA grounds were well maintained. The Hall building on the Dublin approach was for sale and it is to be hoped it will be retained as it is a fine building of its kind, in its prominent location. The Yukon Bar was very fresh, Johnson's was good with charming floral displays, Tully's and White Wave Dry Cleaners. The Credit Union

appeared to need a repaint to the base of its façade. The boundary wall of the Garda Station needed painting, as did the Ulster Bank building. Be sure that dated plastic signage is replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety. The very modern Emo Garage on the Ballyshannon Road was admired. The Antique Shop by the bridge should be painted before next year. The lovely vernacular detailing around the window of McGurreen's was admired. The modern Emerald Star building looked well at the riverside.

Landscaping:

The landscaped areas of the town looked very well. The riverside walk by the bridge was well maintained, although its wildlife signage looked a little neglected and some litter was found at this location. The planted area beneath the bridge, with its picnic table was particularly attractive. The area leading down to the harbour incorporating park and playground looked quite magnificent on the day. The gravel bed in front of the shopping centre was admired. There is scope for further development in this category of the competition, given Belturbet's size and we look forward to seeing the results, given the standards achieved in existing locations of the town! The area around the churches has previously been mentioned and the area at the far side of the bridge at Creeny. The industrial premises here are generally neat in appearance but could be developed further from the point of view of this category. New trees planted on the Dublin Road were coming along well behind their stone wall. The Adopt a Flowerbed Scheme is a good idea.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife information board by the riverside was quite faded and stained, as previously mentioned in this report. The fact that you only use weed killers where necessary is a good objective but have you looked into non-toxic organic options? The plans for a wildlife area at the riverside park are looked forward to and the bird feeders are a good idea.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good given the size of Belturbet. There were a few problem areas, however, such as a minor outbreak at the riverside walk picnic area and approach roads. Quite a lot was found in the shrubbery area outside the public lavatories by the bridge and a lot more was evident at a derelict site leading to the railway station. A few bottles were noted at the Ballyshannon Road. The harbour area car park had a few papers. Despite these minor outbreaks the town was quite good in this regard. Weekly pickups are obviously paying off.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Bank area at Creeny suffered from the eternal problem of dumping and bags and boxes were evident at this location. A more frequent collection might be in order. Do the schools take part in the Green Flag initiative? Your plans for composting areas are an excellent idea. What steps have you taken to increase awareness in the community - residents, businesses and schools - of the options open to them regarding waste management?

Tidiness:

The town is quite neat and tidy in appearance. There are a few derelict sites which need addressing. Weed control seemed to be under control on the day. One or two buildings still had Christmas lights up, which looked a little unseasonal! The damaged signage at the shopping centre should be removed or replaced. The petrol pump by the harbour should be removed.

Residential Areas:

The individual street houses were generally well maintained, as were individual houses and gardens on approach roads. In terms of estates, the new three storey houses on the Dublin Road were admired. The terrace of houses on the Dublin Road with the central archway were also greatly admired and quite fresh in appearance. The bungalows were well maintained on the Ballyshannon Road, one with montbretia should look magnificent when in full bloom. Sean Lee Drive was reasonably well presented – landscaping in this location could be increased, however. Sli na Coille was well maintained. Hillview Cottage has a very charming cottage garden. Pebble-dashed Railway Lough cottages were admired. The new detached houses by the recycling bins were admired but the area to their front was a little weedy.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are generally well cared for. Verges on the Clones Road were good, with stone beds filled with snapdragons and displays of agricultural machinery, but some litter was noted. The main streets of the town were ordered and well presented. The rear area, such as those on the road to the railway station, were somewhat neglected. Attractive planting was noted at the junction on the Ballyshannon Road. Don't forget to paint bollards and street furniture - the bollards in the vicinity of the bridge were rather flaky. Road surfaces on some roads was very rough - such as Railway Road. The Church car park area could be

re-surfaced.

General Impression:

Belturbet is an attractive town, with much to offer in terms of historical significance and geographical location. It has, with continued efforts over time, the potential to do very well in the competition.