

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cavan** Ref: **944**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **247**
Category: **D** Date(s): **27/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	247

Overall Development Approach:

Cavan is welcome to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. Many thanks for your completed application form and Work Programme, which were very informative. Unfortunately your map was rather small in scale and gave little information in terms of the street names in the centre of the town. A larger scale supplementary map focussing in on the central section of the town would be better for next year's competition. You should also clearly mark the location of your nominations for special awards. The fact that Cavan Town Council and Tidy Towns Committee have such a close working relationship is to your credit. You would also appear to have a strong association with the schools, resident's associations and community groups. Work on architectural conservation in the centre of town are reassuring. As your development programme finishes this year, it will be important to revisit this and draft the next stage.

The Built Environment:

The standard of commercial properties in the town was somewhat inconsistent on the day, particularly those on Main Street. Some were fresh and well presented, while others looked sorely neglected in comparison. There are a lot of new infill properties, which are generally well maintained. Many on Town Hall Street appeared very dated and tatty. Bridge Street seemed to be of a higher standard in relation to its shopfronts, road surface paving and pavements. The Cathedral of Sts Patrick and Felim looked well in its striking setting at the Enniskillen end of the town. The Church of Ireland looked well, as did the elegant Courthouse. The new modern brick and glass Library building was admired. The Garda Station was fine. The industrial buildings on the By-Pass were generally well presented. The Business Park on the Ballinagh approach was well presented although further landscaping could be considered in this location. The Presbyterian Church and adjacent stone buildings on Farnham Street looked marvellous. The modern stone façade of Jackson Garage is unusual and was admired. St Felim's National School sported good attractive grounds. The Breffni Inn will need painting before next year. Some buildings, such as Farnham Hotel, still sported Christmas lights.

The Dee Cee Restaurant shopfront was admired, as was the adjacent Imperial and also Infinity Boutique. Do ensure that render is not removed from traditional street buildings as this is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but also can lead to problems with water penetration. Cavan Retail Park had attractive landscaping.

Landscaping:

There is scope for further developments in this category of the competition. In particular the car park at the top of Main Street had some hanging baskets but would benefit from a more permanent solution. The Con Smith Memorial Park was admired – it incorporates a natural appearance in the centre of an otherwise neatly mown area of the park, which looked well. The plaza in front of the Post Office was admired, but the modern sculpture of clasping hands will need to be hosed down before next year. The landscaped area to the dramatic monopitch Quinn Direct building looked very lush and luxuriant. The partially enclosed seating area at the junction of College Street and Farnham Street, was admired but was quite littered. The rose bed opposite Dunnes Stores was also admired. The three headed fountain and associated hard landscaping at the top of Main Street looked very well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The maintenance of the wetlands at Con Smith Park is commendable. Plans for a comprehensive habitat survey are looked forward to, developments at Green Lake similarly so. Have you any other projects in mind?

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was very good, considering the size of the town. Some litter was apparent on the Ballinagh approach. The school's litter programme is a good idea. The daily street cleaning programme is obviously paying off.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre at the Tesco car park was neat on the day. Presumably you have more than one, given the size of the town, but none were found by the adjudicator on the day. These should be clearly marked on your map next year. Environmental campaigns are a good idea. Plans to make local businesses environmentally and waste minimization aware are also good initiatives.

Tidiness:

As mentioned previously in this report, there are quite a few neglected buildings on the main streets of the town. Do discourage advertising hoardings as they can give approach roads a very cluttered appearance. Don't neglect alleyways and archways when considering overall presentation. There was a very neglected one beside Kebabish on Main Street. A messy yard area at the junction of the Ballinagh Road and Ennskillen Road looked unfortunate and should be screened from public view. Barriers at the Tesco car park will need repainting before next year. Don't forget gables when considering presentation – that at corner of Thomas Ashe Street was unfortunate.

Residential Areas:

Houses on approach roads - both individual houses and gardens and estates were generally well cared for on the day. Houses on the Ballinagh approach were generally well presented with attractive gardens. The houses stepping up off the top of Main Street looked very well. Ashbrook was an attractively finished and well landscaped housing estate. Creighton Manor should look well when the seeded banks and new trees come to maturity. Some interesting new houses in timber and stone with steel columns were admired on the Ennskillen approach. Plaza Apartments was a new development at College Street. The town council awards scheme is a marvellous idea and it was heartening to hear it had been extended to private estates.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were generally well cared for on the day. The By-Pass was, by and large, well presented with its many industrial buildings but would benefit from further landscaping in terms of permanent planting and tree planting or the provision of a sculpture of some type. The main roundabout on the Ballinagh approach was a little weedy at its paviers on the edge of the roundabout but the landscaping above was admired. There were a few rough and badly maintained areas along this approach, including weeds at kerbsides and overgrown verges. The road surface on this approach was rather uneven closer to town. Street signage in the centre of the town on the top of Main Street and on the Dublin Road was grubby. The attractive new limestone paving in front of the Courthouse and Library were admired – although the dished paving looked a little conspicuous in yellow.

General Impression:

Cavan is an attractive town which has the potential, with a consistent approach, to do well in the competition.