

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cadamstown** Ref: **547**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **253**
Category: **A** Date(s): **30/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	253

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the comprehensive entry with updated 5 year plan. Cadamstown is a charming little rural village with great care taken in its upkeep. There is a strong community spirit here, evident in committee members helping older residents, and the fact that one fifth of the population is on the committee. Some development is due on derelict sites which should bring an influx of new people to the area.

The Built Environment:

Houses all well presented, lots flowering displays outside

Derelict building opposite nice cottages with site notice up, for developing 3 new houses to be built there

Beautiful car park with planting, fencing, picnic area – its been a project previously funded by EU and Shannon development. Looks very well. Missing couple signs – large sign stand in front of flower beds but no sign in it. Wonder what this is for.

Dempseys pub looking very fine, though not open at time of visit for refreshments unfortunately. Nicely painted gate into mill area. All well signposted

Beautiful stone church, lovely frontage, all new, very clean, lovely shrubs planted with different foliage for year round interest. All streets in front clean and litter free.

Cobbled area with wheelchair access noted

Landscaping:

In a lovely picnic area by the stream we have some stone carvings in memorial to different events in history – nice to have the heritage aspect. Original. Benches nice solid wood

Looks like been newly surfaced with loose gravel on mill walk, all very pretty

Its very well managed walkway – little path by old mill, some stone relics and beautiful private residence – kind of them to allow access. Hope tourists do respect it. Path brings us back onto road and some birdboxes on front of old mill, very lovely. The whole entrances in have been landscaped – same gravel path, new trees planted, interesting stone bridge, little path down to river, gorgeous, anti-litter signs up as well. Have taken disabled access into account with ramps, so that's a good feature.

Theres a very distinctive portal tomb up on the hill behind the house, this is a reconstruction done as a millennium project to represent all travellers who have passed through the village. It will be good to get info like this on a heritage info sign with other main tourist attractions.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Theres a nature trail, well signposted from village, heading up through some farmland, entry very accessible with style. An info notices on flora/ fauna in the car park provides good info about geology, vegetation and wildlife. This is start and finish of the offaly way – would get a lot hiking visitors – and is unique in that it links two popular walks. Nature trail to be extended towards the weir to make a loop walk and bring hikers back to village on the other side of river – this sounds great. I would be keen to return to this village and experience the trail in full.

Litter Control:

Recycling area as well, just missing signs, no rubbish around, all very clean. Totally litter free village

Noted that there are no litter bins in village. Down by recycling bins would be perfect. Signs up for no litter, and it is totally litter free, so its likely they have a strategy they want visitors to take stuff away with them.

Waste Minimisation:

The Recycling area is very tidy. It is noted that people are composting garden waste and that an info leaflet is planned to encourage waste reduction, reuse and recycling. Further projects guidelines are in the Race Against Waste guide.

Tidiness:

Very charming little village – church grounds neat and tidy, lots planting in front – could do possibly with being painted in next while. New signage is planned and it is hoped to have the unsightly cable removed. Difficult to suggest any improvements to cadamstown which is a very charming village where everybody obviously plays their part in keeping village tidy. Strong community spirit is evident here. If I was to make suggestions, possibly just to do something with derelict sites on outskirts, eg. On back road where there is a rickety fence falling down and up past the church – not too bad and one has had some effort made to do some landscaping around it

Residential Areas:

Very charming private residences with well kept gardens. Frontages all very well kept. Paved area with another info sign – very good on info for tourists. Very welcoming, inviting to stay longer. Residences maintained to good standard while keeping village feel. The old stone walls are attractive. There is a small population at present which may increase under designation as 'sraidbhaile'.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approaches all fine, clear, neat tidy verges, clear signs on entry to town. Roads not in bad condition even back road, well tended, free of weeds etc Road condition acceptable but breaking up towards the edges in some parts

General Impression:

Can see why previous adjudicator said he'd like to come back and spend time here at leisure. So would I – especially interested to do the long nature trail and check out the waterfall, bridge and cliff. Close knit village with strong sense of community spirit and involvement, and some interesting features being well promoted for visitors to explore