

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Belturbet** Ref: **395**  
County: **Cavan** Mark: **207**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **05/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>207</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Belturbet is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition in this its 50th Anniversary year. Thank you for your submission, we note the absence of a plan and encourage you to send a copy or a plan summary with each year's entry. Thank you for copies of letters received relating to the '07 adjudication. Well done on your engagement with all sectors of the community and particularly the Green Flag meetings and open days with schools. We note from your submission that the town walk is to be extended and improved with signposting posting to form a circular walk; the adjudicator suggests a map upon completion in the Diamond and at the Marina. Congratulations on the acquisition of the old Railway Station building and its use for community facilities.

### **The Built Environment:**

The town centre can boast handsome period buildings many of which are nicely presented however there are still a few dated plastic signs. The Mc Mahon premises enjoys an excellent presentation and has been considered for a shopfront award. New developments are attractively presented also and the Belturbet Car Sales showroom is one example. Of course there are some buildings which need to be painted to freshen their appearance. Well done on work achieved within the environs of Creeny bridge and on painting of the woodwork at the old railway buildings.

### **Landscaping:**

The entrance to Belturbet from the Cavan Road is superb in design and maintenance of its landscaped areas. The sculpture amenity and hard landscaping at the Diamond is an attractive development also. Well done on tree-planting in Morrissey Park and along the riverbank. It is good to note that these are a combination of ash, beech and oak and will support wildlife. Flowerbeds and container plants were colourful and profuse.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The sports ground was neatly presented to its roadside area and Morrissey Park overlooking the river is a wonderful amenity which compliments the natural beauty of the river and its banks. The Mall walk is an attractive and appropriate development however a little more attention needs to be paid to its seating one of which was in need of repair/removal. Well done also on the new walkway and nature trail along the riverbank and the island, your plan to extend the walkway through the railway site and on to the town is acknowledged and we wish you well in its implementation; you are aware of the need for signs also. Nest boxes on the bank of the river have been noted together with the planted Buddleia bush and other wild flowers.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was quite good throughout Belturbet on adjudication day despite the fact that two litter bins were full to overflowing, one located outside the Seven Horseshoes Hotel and the other located near the Takeaway on the opposite side of the road. A plastic bag of drinks cans was also noted at the seat beside the Ducking Stool amenity. These looked as though they had been collected to be taken away but then forgotten. We note from your submission your regular litter pick up with scouts and your talks with schoolchildren regarding littering and recycling. You are of course aware of the importance of segregating picked litter for recycling.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Your activities under this heading have been noted regarding the distribution of letters to business interests and to the county council on litter blackspots. We note that you plan to relocate the Bring Centre to a secure unit in the industrial estate. The goal under this heading is to reduce the amount of waste produced by the community rather than simply recycling so with this in mind a good starting point would be to take a Waste audit involving all sectors of the community to see exactly how much waste is generated and ultimately devising strategies to reduce this.

### **Tidiness:**

The removal of unsightly signage from poles and elsewhere is acknowledged together with traffic calming measures. Your plan to maintain kerbs and walkways clear of weeds is important together with the elimination of graffiti and fly-posting and the removal of advertisement boards from foot paths; all of these activities are important, none were noted on adjudication day! A number of untidy sites awaiting development were observed, if these are not to be developed in the near future perhaps property owners could be approached regarding appropriate enclosure as an interim measure.

### **Residential Areas:**

Belturbet features many period dwellings most of these being town houses and the majority are nicely presented with some retaining their traditional architectural features. Continue your programme of encouraging people to paint their roadside facades and maintain them to a high standard including boundary walls particularly on approach roads and in estates. The new estates signage at Fair Green and Fay Crescent is acknowledged together with the installation of the old water pump. We wish you every success in the extension of your estate signage and the replacement of existing street nameplates. We are interested to hear more details of the planned project by the scout group for the Morrissey Park area.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

It was a pleasure to note the wirescape free aspect at the Diamond area on the main street. Stretches of road surface and footpath in the town centre are well surfaced and nicely maintained and new footpaths have been noted. The roundabout at the northern entrance to the town is nicely landscaped and the car-park at Turbet Island is well-maintained. Major improvements at Creeny and on the Cavan Road are acknowledged and not forgetting footpaths on Church Street and the Lawn areas. Bridges are being well-maintained

### **General Impression:**

Belturbet is a handsome town with fine amenity facilities and a strong commitment to social inclusion as is evidenced by the Railway Centre development which serves the social needs of the community also. Well done on this year's presentation and good luck with future developments

