

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bagenalstown** Ref: **32**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **255**
Category: **D** Date(s): **23/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	255

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Bagenalstown to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your entry form. Unfortunately, some sections of the entry form were not completed at all and this raised the issue as to whether no work was done in these categories or whether work was done but details were omitted in error. For the third year in a row there has been a difficulty with the map supplied. The map that you submitted this year was dated February 2005 and no details of any sort on your work for this year were added. Therefore, with an incomplete entry form and map over four years out of date the adjudicator was not given the best assistance possible by the Committee. Do remember that the entry process is a relationship building opportunity with your adjudicator. The more help that you can give the adjudicator the easier it is for the adjudicator to help you in your work. This is not intended as any form of criticism but as guidance for next year when we look forward to returning to Bagenalstown again.

Your committee of nine people is appropriate for a town of this size and your regular meetings, and the involvement with the Residents Associations are all ingredients of an efficient Committee. It was really encouraging to read that SuperValu, FAS and the County Council are all working with you in your important work for Bagenalstown. The Schools and the Scouts have a lot to contribute and it is great that you are involving them also.

The Built Environment:

It was encouraging to read that Planning Permission has been granted for two new retail outlets and construction in the centre of the town was observed. Work at the Vocational School was noted but details were not provided. At the Industrial Estate the new sign was admired as was the presentation of the old Malthouse at the Dunleckney road roundabout. The cosmetic work here is the correct approach. However,

around the corner the areas to the back of this building were quite untidy and visible from the main road. The Catholic Church successfully closes the view at the top of The Parade and the Planning Permission application notice for developments works here was examined. The Railway Station was really admired and the low key window box presentation was just right for this building as it allowed this fine structure to speak for itself. Further along, on Railway Road, St. Brigin's de La Salle caught the eye for good presentation. Further along the landscaped grounds of the College provided an attractive setting for the main building set back from the roadway. The tall spire of the Church of Ireland guides the eye in on the Carlow approach road and this building is attractively presented. The O'Duinn premises near the Garda Station caught the eye and the Granite window and, door detailing here is of interest. Along Main Street some quite poor retail signage was noted and perhaps there may be potential to introduce a scheme of retail signage improvement or some incentive scheme, and this might be discussed with the business community and Local Authority. Opposite Redmond Bookmakers, an old building with some interesting detailing caught the eye. This may have been an old Post Office. Pending a new use, this building needs a cosmetic treatment on the elevation to the street.

Landscaping:

Your entry mentioned upgrading to McGrath Park and new beds at the entrance to the Industrial Site RDR; no location was given for this and likewise, the Minch Norton Sculpture was mentioned but not located on the map. The junction of the Dunleckney road is superbly landscaped and the standard of the grass areas exceptionally high. What a great first impression of Bagenalstown for first time visitors. The landscaped area at the entrance to the Business Park was examined and good work has been done here but was somewhat diminished in impact by the litter here. The concrete post and rail fencing here needs to be repainted. The Fair Green, though not mentioned in your entry, was well worth a visit and the landscaping here was admired. Large flower containers at the Main Street / High Street junction brought colour to this area where it was needed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The entry form referred to The Barrow Way under projects for this year; however this adjudicator is almost certain that The Barrow Way was developed some years ago. The bird watching hut was mentioned in the same context and the adjudicator assumed that this was a new work for this year. This is an important facility but again it was not marked on the map. Are the disabled fishing stands new for this year?

Litter Control:

Apart from the Carlow Litter League, no projects were indicated for this year though it was good to read that you do not have a problem with dumping. Litter control was generally quite poor on the day of the visit reflecting a decline on the situation recorded by last year's adjudicator. Litter was noted at the base of the litter bin on the Dunleckney approach road and along the McGrath Park boundary wall. Much litter was present at Kilree Bridge and on the Carlow road, by the Business Park entrance. Quite atrocious litter was present inside the entrance on the left hand side. Litter was evident along Main Street at the Credit Union end and, especially bad littering was noted along the river in the general Barrow Lane area. Some of the litter bins are quite old and need to be replaced.

Waste Minimisation:

No new projects were indicated under this adjudication category. Your mark in this category is high and this is not consistent with the lack of new initiatives for this year. As indicated last year, the key issue here is waste minimisation in Bagenalstown. You might have a meeting with the person responsible for waste minimisation in the County Council.

Tidiness:

The entry advised that the railings had been removed at the ONE plot but did not give a location. We wish you well in your future project to have cabling placed under ground. On the Dunleckney approach some timber roadside fencing needed to be treated. On the outward side of the McGrath Park grounds a very untidy area was noted. On the Carlow approach road, opposite Homecare, the old Foods premises is very untidy and needs a cosmetic work pending redevelopment.

Residential Areas:

Again no projects were indicated under this heading. Quite a number of estates were visited and some good presentations were examined such as Maple Drive and the houses, along Kilcarrig Street. The problem for the adjudicator was that there was no way of knowing what work was done for this year on residential areas and what was done in years previously regarding improvements. Therefore, no additional marks could be considered this year.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Evidently, no new work was done under this heading for this year. The R705 approach, along by the river bank, is highly impressive and gives a great first impression of Bagenalstown. The Dunleckney approach also impressed with the fine roadside trees and the Copper Beech standing out. The presentation along the Myshall approach was inconsistent. Along Kilree Street, the presentation between the 50 KPH and 60 KPH signage was better than that from the 50 KPH signs in towards the centre of Bagenalstown.

General Impression:

In Tidy Towns terms Bagenalstown has great potential and has made excellent progress to date in some sections of the Competition. Do remember the issue of the map and completion of the entry form for next year and good luck with your projects in the meantime.