

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Belturbet**

Ref: **395**

County: **Cavan**

Mark: **238**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **10/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	50	29	29
Landscaping	50	30	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23	24
Litter Control	50	25	24
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	11	12
Tidiness	30	17	17
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	32
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	400	236	238

Overall Development Approach:

Faillte Béal Tairbirt go TidyTowns 2013. We have no doubt that Belturbet Tidy Towns Committee (BTTC) is an organised, enthusiastic and dedicated bunch of volunteers. Your level of commitment to improving Belturbet has been demonstrated in your planning and organisation of the fundraising events such as Turbet Live. Your ability to work cooperatively with Cavan County Council and other groups has also been demonstrated in receiving funding for the much needed Town Hall works.

The Built Environment:

Refurbishment work has commenced on the Town Hall and we wait eagerly to see the new library and community resource facility. This is a great example of positive partnership between Cavan County Council and Belturbet Community Development Association Ltd and BTTC. On Butler Street premises were presented quite well, however ask occupiers to consider maintenance and upkeep of the roofs and gutterings of their buildings as well as the shop fronts. For example, weeds were growing out of the guttering of some premises while others had a bit of moss on their roofs. The McDonalds Bakery building occupies a prominent position on Deanery Street and would benefit from painting. There is also a building in a bad state of disrepair at the Barrack Hill area. Cassidy's at the Bridge is also an important building which needs some attention. Premises the adjudicator noted for their fresh and tidy facades includes the Fire Station, Erne Supplies, Noel Smith & Co Architects, R Johnston Quality Meats, the Credit Union, the Seven Horsehoes Hotel and MacManus's pharmacy - Perhaps another adjudicator would pick a different selection. We noted the newly erected bicycle stand in the vicinity of the public toilets. The Fair Green National School building looked well. We visited the Old Railway Station and admired the sensitively renovated buildings here - back to their former glory. The heritage trail with its informative signage panels and plaques is excellent.

Landscaping:

Attractive planters were noted at various locations throughout the town including, the Diamond and outside the public toilets. The planters help to create a more pleasant streetscape, soften the street and buildings and provide a splash of natural vibrancy. Consider more trees over the next few years as they provide an additional connection to nature. Nice planting around the pump was also noted at a housing estate in the town (no estate name appeared to be in place). The adjudicator would be interested to know more on your Greening of Belturbet Project.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Turbet Island is a haven for a wealth of wildlife and offers the locals and visitors' wonderful opportunities for interaction with nature and the environment. All the trails seem to be fully accessible – well done. A good deal of people were fishing and enjoying the Erne on adjudication day. You are blessed to have such a wealth of wildlife and natural amenities on your doorstep. This adjudicator would reiterate the recommendation from last year in relation to nature walk, bat walk etc. A looped nature walk would seem ideal for your area and we suggest you consider discussing possibilities with Cavan Leader. The signage at the Wildlife Sanctuary could be replaced, as it is not clearly legible. We agree with your approach to only mow paths through your wildlife area, this not only increases the biodiversity value but is less onerous on your resources. We visited the area where trees have been dedicated to Canon Corrigan. We are pleased to learn that you have decided to progress a Japanese Knotweed eradication plan and have consulted and drawn up a plan in relation to this - thanks for acting on the advice given last year. Proper maintenance of the wildflower meadow is essential.

Litter Control:

The Bring Centre was tidy and well presented on adjudication day. Unfortunately there was a lot of rubbish noted by an overflowing large commercial sized bin at Morrissey Park. Furthermore bottles and cans were noted at seating at the Duckin Stool jetty. As most visitors to your town would gravitate towards the Erne we feel that unsightly pile of litter and rubbish would not impress, nor do your efforts justice. No doubt the number of visitors to this area increased significantly the few days prior to our adjudication visit due to the good weather and high temperatures experienced but this adjudicator considers the littering here to be an eyesore and would detract from the positive welcome to potential visitors arriving by boat to Belturbet. Be vigilant in relation to cigarette butts on the pavement outside the Railway Bar. Some litter was also noted on the pavement on Butler Street and there appeared to be quite an accumulation of cigarette butts, papers grass and leaves at the edge of the pavement. The adjudicator wonders if the County Council provides sweepers on a regular basis? On a different note the information panel was read with great interest at the Duckin Stool, well done for passing on these interesting tidbits of your local history.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

A number of locals were using the Bring Centre on adjudication day. Furthermore, it was positive to see a number of commercial properties setting out a significant amount of cardboard set out for recycling on adjudication day. It was good to see three green flags flying at Scoil Maomh Mhuire signaling their dedication to the Green Schools Programme and we are pleased to learn that Fairgreen National School has committed to the embarking on the Green Schools journey, we are sure they will enjoy it and feel a great sense of reward once they receive their first green flag. You have run an information campaign in relation to waste minimisation – well done. Distribution of the information and tips distributed in shops and public buildings was also an apt work element for this category. Remember this category is about sustainable waste and resource management and not recycling per se.

Tidiness:

The public conveniences were reasonably clean on adjudication day. The adjudicator noted a few points that you can take into consideration. A pole indicating a disabled parking bay requires straightening outside the Church of the Immaculate Conception. A gated entrance into a private residence on Mill Walk behind the public toilets could be improved. A fence and gate was noted to be in a state of disrepair in the vicinity of St. Bricin's College (near the junction between Chapel Road and Widow's House Lane). Undergrounding of overhead cables would greatly improve the streetscape in Belturbet. Street furniture was in good condition and the adjudicator particularly admired your unusual stone bollards in the vicinity of the Town Hall and Diamond.

Residential Areas:

Housing was generally in good condition. The Old Manse on Butler Street is an attractive property. It was noted that there was no name plate at the entrance to the housing estate across from the derelict Breffni Aluminum premises near the Old Railway Station. Sean Lee Drive, Marian Park and Fay Crescent were noted for planting and neat presentation.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Traffic in the town is very busy and there would appear to be a significant amount of heavy goods vehicles navigating the main thoroughfare. We hope this will be well alleviated by the opening of the outer relief road. The road surfacing on Mill Walk was noted to be of a high standard and must have been recently completed. The green area on the right on the Cavan approach (before the 50 km speed signs) at the Fairways (?) containing the picnic tables, planted churns and vintage agricultural machinery is well presented.

General Impression:

The adjudicator was delighted to learn such a wonderful tidbit of information about Belturbet during the adjudication visit - that the first ever remains in Europe of the Woolly Mammoth were found on Turbet Island! The adjudicator also ashamedly did not know that the Geopark encompassed parts of Belturbet. You have a lovely town and we thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Belturbet. You have been progressing well in this competition over the past few years due to your dedicated volunteers who give up a considerable amount of time and effort for the

betterment of Belturbet. Well done this year on your endeavors.