

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BRIDGETOWN**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	166

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It would have been much easier for the adjudicator to determine the level of work that was being undertaken in the village if the entry form was completed in more detail, admittedly the map attached did contain some information but not enough. Bridgetown is a very pleasant village and on adjudication day looked at its best. I would suggest that the committee make an effort to put together a 3 year work plan and have it ready for next years competition. Involve other local organisations more and interact with local authority and other agencies that are relevant to the village. A better effort in terms of planning will benefit the village and also increase its chances of moving up the rankings of the competition.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Like many other entrants this year, there has been no reference of what plans the committee have in relation to this sector. The village has a nice focal point in the bridge and river and is it possible to develop a natural amenity in its vicinity. If somebody local has a knowledge and an interest in wildlife conservation maybe that person should be approached to help put together a programme, and as I have been advocating in other cases do involve the school children.

LANDSCAPING

The village as stated previously is very pleasant and compact and this is due in no small measure to the excellent planting programme that has been undertaken. The green around the bridge looked vibrant and colourful with a good mixture of shrubs and annual flowers. Individual houses and business premises have contributed their share by having flower tubs and hanging baskets. The only slight criticism that I would have is that there is too much emphasis on colour, a little bit more contrast is needed.

As part of a wildlife programme I would advise the committee to incorporate a section on landscaping or the provision of appropriate shrubbery that would be in keeping with the surroundings.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The bridge is the main feature of the village and maybe should be exploited a little more by adding some additional features. To this adjudicator there seemed too many boundary walls that were bland concrete structures. Bridgetown is the type of village that would made more attractive if there was a planned approach to have all boundary walls built or faced with native stone. All business premises looked well on the day - Ginivan's, Pierce's and Cooney's deserve mention for their efforts as does the Ben Barra B&B and a number of private residences. The Church and National School, graveyard and grotto, were well maintained and are a credit to those responsible for their upkeep. The Creamery which has come in for unfavourable mention in the past was in good condition and certainly not unsightly. A shed opposite Cooneys takes away from the look of the village it should be attended to prior to next years competition.

LITTER CONTROL

The village had very little litter on adjudication day except for some rubbish that was in the river, even allowing for the fact that there was no litter there still was insufficient bins in and around the village. As far as I could ascertain there were only two bins in place. Keep up the good work on the litter front.

TIDINESS

The village was neat and tidy in appearance with good weed control around kerb areas. The paths of which there are not many were in good condition. As mentioned in the previous section things like unsightly sheds take away from the neat and tidy appearances of villages, take the advice given and do something to improve that shed opposite Cooneys.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The village is small and does not have a large estate as such, the housing scheme that is there was well kept in general, a few back areas of houses could have been better. All other houses both in the core area and on the approach roads were very well presented some with beautiful gardens. A good effort is been made by residents to keep Bridgetown well and in the process help it do better in this competition.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads were well maintained grass margins were cut back and hedgerows were trimmed. The Killaloe road has a very inviting appeal, and quite an amount of effort by way of planting trees over the years has paid off. I had already made a comment about the need to have uniformity in terms of boundary walls, on this road there were some lovely examples of pleasant stonewalls. The O'Briensbridge and Broadford Roads were well maintained but are not as imposing as the others. Ancillary roads were also in good condition.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Bridgetown is a village where there is a good approach to tidy towns. I feel that it could be achieving more if there was a co-ordinated work programme put in place. This type of approach can be very straightforward with simple objectives and a time schedule to achieve these. The task of any committee can be difficult when you are trying to mobilise support and convert it into practical endeavour. Bridgetowns Tidy Towns Committee is sufficiently large enough to be representative of all sections of the community. So keep up the good work.