

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BENNETTSBRIDGE**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	33
The Built Environment	40	27
Litter Control	40	31
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	213

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is very good to read on the application form of the high level of assistance from the community, and the ongoing co-operative effort with the County Council. The FAS scheme is obviously very helpful too. Thank you for your helpful map, and also for "before and after" photographs which were most useful in identifying the many improvements recently undertaken. The projects 'in the pipeline' are impressive, and their completion will be looked forward to.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A nominal mark is being given in the first year of this new heading to committees which have not had time to consider initiatives. Your mark will be slightly higher because of your involvement in the preservation of wildlife, as described.

LANDSCAPING

The public lawns in Bennettsbridge, principally on approach roads and in housing areas, are particularly fine. There is a wonderfully spacious feeling of good husbandry. Flower beds with low stone boundary walls on the Thomastown road were really eye-catching on adjudication day. The grotto is one of the best kept seen anywhere. Tree planting on the curve of the westerly bridge approach was very favourably noted, and excellent hedge-clipping on the road by the GAA Park. Somehow the planting along the rather dreary wall at the latter has not succeeded, and needs to be rethought. Open spaces here are excellent.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

With the exception of the superb Mosse's Mill, Bennettsbridge does not possess the extensive and varied range of architecture typical of most riverine towns and villages in the county, but what does exist is very well looked after. The Church, School and Community Centre were especially spruce on adjudication day; renovations were noted at the latter. Business premises, including the two craft industries, in the village, showed a high standard of presentation. On the outskirts, Treacy's premises was very well presented.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little disposable litter on adjudication day, except on the verges of the hill towards Gowran and on the street at the east side of the bridge.

TIDINESS

A tidy village. The area mentioned above, to the east of the bridge, is the only one which requires attention, as it does have rather a clutter of private and public signage, window stickers, poles and wires. Indiscriminate signage may also become an eyesore on the Kilkenny road.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older villages houses are well kept, but it is in its suburban areas that Bennettsbridge is particularly distinguished; of these, the Ring and Marian Place were looking splendid, with countless attractive gardens. Houses and gardens on the station road was also admired. At Hillview some palings were in need of repair and the dilapidated post-and-wire fencing does not adequately terminate the estate. Norewood will look better when foliage takes the bare look off some boundary walls. The main road verges at the entrance to Kilree could do with tidying up. Woodlawn is another well-tended estate. In spite of some remarks above, all the residential areas are well above the average.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were very trim on adjudication day. The bridge, as centrepiece of the village, was as usual well maintained. Surfaces and paving are generally adequate. Stone wall building and facing was noted, and it was good to see that the boundary wall with its curved bays for trees and parking spaces has blended very well with the environment after a couple of years. Unsightly 'back areas' were at a minimum.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Bennettsbridge is strongest on its landscaping and housing, a real credit to the residents in general, as well as to the Tidy Towns Association. An exceptionally well kept and prosperous looking village.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/96)

Approach roads were generally maintained to a very high standard, but the Stonyford road was a bit weedy, and more planting is needed around the town name sign here. The petrol station on the Kilkenny road would benefit from some freshening up and planting. Your plans for the stream on the Kilkenny road sound interesting, and we suggest that you plant native trees and shrubs here. The standard of development and maintenance of residential areas is very good, with just a few boundary walls in need of painting. Some of the shopfronts, especially Eileens, will need some freshening up for next year's competition.