

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **INISTIOGE**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	35
The Built Environment	40	31
Litter Control	40	32
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>223</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is the man-made environment as much as the tranquil sylvan and reverie setting which makes Inistioge such an attractive place. It is good to read in the application form of the support for the Association from local business, and of your co-operative efforts with the local authorities. The FAS scheme is obviously helpful here, as elsewhere. Thank you for your very useful map.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your bird-rearing and protection activities, as described, are impressive. It is good to see nature walks signposted.

### LANDSCAPING

Planting on the Woodstock and Thomastown roads was admired, and also in the Square, as well as numerous floral displays throughout the village; but the most remarkable landscaping project is the riverside green, where the interaction of old buildings (including the magnificent bridge) with judicious planting has created a formidably impressive public amenity. Good to see more imaginative choice of plants - such as lavender - than in most centres. This area was photographed and will be entered in the national competition. Improvements at St. Colmcille's Well will be looked forwarded to next year when completed - incidentally, this is not a suitable area for access for people with disabilities, nor is the Graveyard: you may have misunderstood Item H of Section C. The latter is very well looked after, except for weeds on the mausoleum.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The two churches are splendidly maintained. The sign at the Church of Ireland is very neatly done, and most helpful in identifying the numerous locations. (A pity the Flaxman monument is not on view). This adjudicator has passed through Inistioge on many occasions, but until this day had never walked the village systematically: on seeing the fascinating pieces of tomb sculpture preserved in the wall of the R.C. Church, it occurred to him that a future project might be the provision of small permanent descriptive and explanatory plaques at salient places. Most of the business premises are very well kept. When nominating shopfronts for the national competition, please be aware that as well as unique design and craftsmanship, the entire building, including upper storeys, eaves, roof and stacks must be in first class order, there must be no mass-produced signs, no PVC window frames on old buildings, and window stickers and unsightly wires or cables must be absent. Many business premises were very neatly presented on adjudication day. Preservation Hall looked desperately in need of preservation.

### LITTER CONTROL

Unfortunately there was a considerable amount of litter in the stream which bounds the riverside park, and in the park itself. Litter control is obviously a problem; a pity that in high summer, when there are so many visitors around, more stringent steps are not taken to obviate it.

### TIDINESS

In spite of considerable littering, Inistioge is undoubtedly a tidy village in most respects, so it was surprising to see kerbside weed outside the Woodstock Arms. Discourage wall building or wall repairs in concrete blocks, post-and-wire fencing, plastic signage.

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Much of the older housing is most picturesque, and many homes have delightfully rampaging gardens in nooks and crannies; the hill to Woodstock is particularly good (a pity about one handsome derelict house

by the pump), as is the residential street behind the RC Church. The un-named housing scheme at the top of Mill Road is remarkable for its well-planted open space and neat gardens; the front wall of a private house at the entrance to the estate is first class.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Verges on approach roads were trim on adjudication day. Surfaces are generally good. Paving is particularly good at some points. Stone wall building was very favourably noted on the Woodstock road, and also on the Mill road; in general, the conservation of ancient stonework throughout Inistioge is admirable. A pity about the rather tumbled entrance to the Poyntz Road walk, and some unpleasant open entries. Public toilets were unusually well looked after.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

An exceptionally attractive and well maintained village, where less pleasing details are being addressed, and standards are improving year by year.

#### SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/96)

Your development approach is working well, but it would be helpful if you would organise a 3 - 5 year plan so that your strategy would take into consideration a timescale and budget. There was very good litter control in the town, but some litter was noticed in the stream next to the public toilets. Other areas were well maintained. There were no weedy areas, with the exception of the Woodstock arms. Most of the approach roads looked well, but the Thomastown road was beginning to need mowing. The standard of shopfronts has improved greatly and the numerous windowboxes enhance the appearance of the whole town.