

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BRUFF**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	34
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	34
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>215</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Although you did not present a three or five year work plan, you would appear to have a distinct idea of what you would like to accomplish in the future for Bruff. Your relationship and level of communication with both FAS and Limerick County Council is to be commended. However, it is important to formulate a professional programme in order to identify the weak areas, and stress the town's strengths in order that you may focus on these problem areas and advance the town's strong points. Many thanks for your comprehensive responses to the questionnaire and clear map which were both invaluable on Adjudication Day.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Maybe the best approach to this category would be to contact your local environmental groups and experts who could advise and assist you with the information you need to tackle this extensive area. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your locality and establish what varieties of wildlife (animals, birds, fish and plant life) these attract. Include the local schoolchildren in this project - they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the abundance of wildlife in their local environs. Their Tidy Towns posters were very fetching. Your efforts in respect of the mallard ducks in the Morning Star River are commendable.

### LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was very high - it is obviously an aspect of the competition at which you excel. The riverside park was beautifully maintained, situated as it is between the two stone bridges, although the metal entrance gate could be freshened up before next year's competition. Perhaps the landscaping could be extended to include the town side of the nearer bridge. The monument was also well maintained with its display of yellow roses and stone wall surround. The new trees on Main Street were coming along nicely.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard in this category was quite inconsistent. The public buildings of Bruff were maintained to a high standard. The FCJ convent, National School and Catholic church, with its purple petunias either side of the entrance, were all very fresh. The well maintained grounds with new trees to the latter were admired. As were the fresh white seats outside the graveyard (although some dead weeds were noted to the base of the boundary wall). The prominently positioned and charming Church of Ireland church with its witch's hat stone spire - so typical of this area of the country, was admired. The Health Centre was reasonably fresh, although the boundary wall could do with a coat of paint. The mustard coloured Courthouse was very fresh, although some weeds were noted to the painted step and concrete path leading up through the grounds. The Garda Station is a fine building, but both the building itself and the gates could be freshened up. The stone archway to the side was slightly weedy. Both Bruff's banks were fresh, although the Bank of Ireland could freshen up their intricate mouldings to the windows and doors. There are many charming traditional shopfronts which should be restored to their former glory or maintained. Quilty's is an attractive asset to the town, but was very flaky in appearance, as was another building beside the butcher's near the Knockaney road. The hanging baskets to the Veterinary Centre were admired, but the building itself should be freshened, as could Moloney's. The wall beside Keating's bar should be freshly white-washed. The floral displays either side of the laneway were admired, however. The use of inappropriate projecting plastic signs should be discouraged.

### LITTER CONTROL

The town of Bruff was generally litter-free on Adjudication Day, and the timber litter bins to the park area were much admired.

## TIDINESS

On first impressions the town of Bruff looked neat and tidy. However, closer inspection revealed a few problem areas. There were some grubby unpainted gates near the Riverside Park. The prominent boundary wall at the corner of Main Street and the Croom road looked quite grubby and should be freshened up before next year, while the bare concrete block boundary wall to the green space of the cottages opposite the courthouse should be plastered and painted. The aluminium and perspex telephone boxes were badly stained. Weed control was also a problem, on the day. Some weeds were noted to the Courthouse area. Street cleaning was in progress so perhaps these had a short life-span! The road to the back of the Catholic church was also rather weedy. As was the laneway beside Butler's attractive old pub front. Road signs were generally in good order, although some scratching was noted to the yield sign by the park. The outbuildings by the GAA grounds should be replastered or painted and the entrance area should be re-white-washed.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was high. The lovely gardens opposite the Catholic church were admired, as were the fresh houses in vicinity of the courthouse. Those opposite had a beautifully maintained open space. A house opposite the AIB bank sported a traditional door protector/shade, giving it a beautifully nostalgic air. There were some delightfully fresh houses with hanging baskets on the Knockeany road.

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was slightly inconsistent. The Kilmallock road was well maintained, with an abundance of landscaping and new trees which were coming on nicely. The speed limit sign was slightly faded, however. The road signage on Main Street was slightly grubby in appearance. The road adjacent to the Catholic church looked very well. The hedgerows were in the process of being trimmed on the day, and it sported some delightful trees, planting and green landscaped spaces. The road surface to the Knockeany road was in bad condition.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town of Bruff is a vibrant and charming one with many traditional shop fronts. The general impression was a neat tidy litter-free one. However, some more effort is required from those who have neglected to maintain and paint their properties.

## SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/96)

There was no conspicuous litter on second adjudication day and the areas of planting - trees, lawns, beds and shubberies - were looking superb. It is particularly good to note how well the planting of some years ago has come on and is showing its worth - evidence of sound long-term planning. The prime difficulty - and this does not need pointing out - is derelict buildings. It is to be hoped that the handsome old Garda Station will not join the list of these when it is vacated. (The new Garda Station looks very fine in its near-completed state). Congratulations to the Committee for its first class work.