

Tidy Towns 1996

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BRUREE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	30
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	204

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 Bruree. 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 map which were both invaluable on Adjudication Day.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Maybe the best approach to this topic of wildlife/natural amenities would be to approach local environmental groups and authorities who could advise and oblige you with the information you need to tackle this extensive area. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your locale and establish what varieties of wildlife (animals, birds, fish and plantlife) 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.

LANDSCAPING

The strongest aspect of this category was the riverside area, which was well kept. The new trees to the park area looked magnificent. Perhaps the concrete piers and metal railing could be replaced by a stone wall, which would give a more permanent appearance to the area. The stone bridge over the river is another charming bonus. Pockets of incidental planting were admired for their colour and simplicity. The purple and pink planting to the boundary wall opposite Moloney's bar looked very cheerful and colourful. The Ballynoe church and churchyard in its hillside setting, with stone spire and boundary walls was also admired. The planting further along the avenue near the entrance was an enchanting surprise. The old mill building with its water wheel and daisy-topped channel is well maintained, although the laneway leading to it was a little weedy. The planting to the railway bridge was in progress on Adjudication Day. The roadside here was rather potholed and weed-ridden, though. The adjacent tree-topped concrete embankment looked rather desolate, perhaps it could be landscaped with grass at a future date. The presentation of the two village pumps and stone wall surround with the milk-churn was admired for its simplicity.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both public and commercial premises in the town were well maintained. The school looked very fresh, the stone boundary wall and grounds were beautifully kept. The church and grounds were also well maintained, the railings were brightly painted. The boundary wall beside the church with the crenellated stone coping was also delightful. However, some weeds were noted to the kerbside. The Post Office looked very freshly painted. Both Moloney's butchers and John Moloney's bar were very fresh. The colourful hanging baskets to the former were greatly admired. The Central bar was also fresh and sported more hanging baskets. The sign, however looked somewhat dated. Hogan's supermarket unusual facade was admired, but the plastic sign should be replaced with a more appropriate timber one. Aras de Valera looked well with its stone boundary wall and display of marigolds and aubretia to the front. The seemingly abandoned pub opposite the church looked sad, as did the adjacent flaky boundary wall (which should be freshly white washed) to a weedy yard area behind. It is important not to neglect the backs of the houses on Mill Street as they are visible from Main Street, and looked quite grubby on the day.

LITTER CONTROL

There was virtually no litter apparent on Adjudication Day. Some was noted along Main Street, and more

papers were seen to the road up to Ballynoe church yard, which was also rather overgrown.

TIDINESS

The overall impression created was a neat and tidy one. However, closer inspection revealed a few problem areas. The signage at the junction near the butcher's was quite grubby. The forecourt area to the car park opposite de Valera Park should be re-surfaced and landscaped to soften its somewhat bare appearance. The forecourt area by the rockery and picnic area by the bridge was quite weedy, although the rockery itself was beautifully maintained. The wire fence to the area opposite the Riverside Park should be removed. As should that one with concrete posts near the school. The doors of the garage beside the de Valera museum needed painting. As did the boundary wall to the untidy yard area to the town side of the bridge - this should be screened from public view as it looks quite unsightly. The laneway beside the Post Office also looked quite unsightly. The telephone box was stained and could be freshened up, although the landscaping was admired.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Both the individual houses and estates of Bruree, for the most part, looked well on Adjudication Day. The houses along Main Street looked very fresh, although one or two boundaries could be freshened before next year's competition. The cottages with half-doors opposite the de Valera museum looked extremely fresh and their displays of hanging baskets and window boxes were very colourful. The house beside the de Valera museum was well maintained with some attractive planting to the base of its boundary wall to the road. St. Munchin's Terrace looked well with its extremely colourful gardens. The derelict tin-roofed cottages by Hogan's should be restored to their former glory, while the cottages opposite the church could be freshened before next year. De Valera Park could have been presented to a higher standard, the name-plate sign was virtually obscured and some rubble appeared to have been abandoned at the junction with Main Street.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads and those within the town had been presented to a high standard on the day. The approach to Bruree from the main Limerick/Cork road via the Riverside Park with its view down to town and mill is a most attractive one. The Kilmallock road was also very well maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town of Bruree is a most attractive and charming one, in its riverside setting. It was a pleasure to visit for the first time on a sunny summer's day.