

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **O'BRIENS BRIDGE**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	33
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	187	180

O'Briens Bridge, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Ordnance Survey map of the village and the 3 year work plan (1997 - '99) enclosed with the 1997 entry form were both interesting and helpful with the adjudication. The village is quite compact on one bank of the River Shannon, across from Montpelier. The development of the village is confined to the main street, the river bank and the approach from the main Limerick-Killaloe road and the ESB canal. The plan includes continued development of walks with a proposed 6-mile loop walk, which will link in nicely with the Lough Derg Way, and a wildlife conservation programme, both of which are to be commended. With the completion of a village renewal plan being undertaken by Clare County Council, the Committee will be well placed to follow through with a well focused work programme that should transform the appearance of the village. Some of this information was referred to in the 1996 report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Premises and buildings generally throughout the village are well-maintained and presented with good use of colour. The shops, pubs, the post office, the grotto and nearby water-pump, the tourist accommodation (B & B's, caravan and camping park) all looked well.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping along the riverbank and the village green around the grotto was good. This aspect of the village is improving and is going a long way to integrate the riverbank with the surrounding countryside. The on-going improvement of these areas is already having an effect and the overall appearance of the village is improving accordingly.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The natural setting of the village on the River Shannon, the existing wildlife sanctuary and the plans to continue to improve and enhance these features of the village are to be welcomed. The natural amenities of the village are what makes it so attractive to visitors, including the many anglers that come to O'Briens Bridge every year.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was fairly free of litter on the day of adjudication and obviously the efforts of the Committee through the major clean up of the village and river-bank and the involvement of the school and community as a whole is proving effective. The proposed new litter bins will help to ensure that this momentum is maintained.

TIDINESS

The village was neat and tidy throughout except along the

cul-de-sac road to the right as one comes off the bridge, crossing from Montpelier.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual houses throughout the village are responding to the Tidy Towns Committee's appeals and most have attractive gardens or use of flowers in window boxes or baskets on their properties. There are some very well-presented houses on the Doonass road; the riverside housing estate in the village is being nicely maintained and individual houses look quite well. Elsewhere in the village, private houses are making their contribution and the houses along past the caravan and camping site were all nicely maintained and presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road into the village off the main road and the road from Doonass are both being well-maintained. The main street will be greatly enhanced with the improvements out-lined in the 3-year work plan and it will be interesting to see what the County Council's village renewal scheme will propose in this regard.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

O'Briens Bridge has great potential and the Committee's plans are obviously geared to exploit that potential and to maximise the advantages of its location and the natural amenities of both its immediate rural setting and the riverside location. Again, the Committee are to be complimented on their forward planning and bringing the community along with them.