

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	221	213

Bennettsbridge, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Other than passing through on the way to Thomastown this adjudicator had never been to Bennettsbridge before. It must certainly be among the more delightful and attractive villages in Ireland. Congratulations to your Committee and your Community on all the years of hard work and to your Local Authority and other bodies all of whom have helped to bring Bennettsbridge to the position it is in today. Your map and plan were most useful on adjudication day and thank you for them. Last year you received an in-depth report on the village. The following comments should be taken within the context of that report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church, Cemetery, and Schools were very well presented on adjudication day. Your comments regarding the painting of the Church have been noted. However, St Bennetts Hall and the Community Centre do need attention. The presence of rocks and sand would seem to indicate that work in this respect is in progress. The Grotto was very well presented.

LANDSCAPING

The work which you have done under this heading is a joy to behold. Your flower beds are excellent and are being well maintained. Work along the GAA wall was noted. This is an ideal area for landscaping, the fruits of which will hopefully be seen next year. For this and other areas around Bennettsbridge think in terms of judicious tree planting and the planting of flowering shrubs which will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. The emphasis here however is on the word judicious as too many trees or shrubs can lead to clutter whereas careful planting can soften the environment. If you have not done so already, seek the advice of your Local Authority, Coillte or some qualified person in the locality. Perhaps you already have one on your Committee.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a comparatively new category in the competition, the purpose of which is to put the emphasis on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats and your Committee should try to identify those in their area and determine what appropriate actions could be taken to conserve and enhance them. The guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. If there is a local wildlife expert or a member of your Community with experience in this area then please seek their advice. The activity of your Scout Group and your children's interest could be a springboard for this type of project.

LITTER CONTROL

There was only minor litter to be seen in the area of the Church on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned on an otherwise good performance under this body.

TIDINESS

The area on the road where the Mill Café is situated is somewhat untidy and in stark contrast to the rest of the village which was presented in excellent condition on adjudication day. Signage at the entrance to and in that area would also need to be looked at.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Your Committee are to be congratulated in having representatives from the residential areas on it. It is absolutely essential for a Tidy Towns Committee to have this type of support particularly in a village like Bennettsbridge which is mainly residential. Comments made in last year's report on the housing estates probably still apply but the standard of presentation in general was excellent.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are good and approaches have been extremely well maintained. The only back area causing some difficulty is that referred to above under tidiness. The Kilkenny approach looked particularly well as indeed did the approach from Thomastown.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall Bennettsbridge appears to be going from strength to strength. Your plan was very impressive to read as indeed were the comments in your entry form. Success does not come overnight in the Tidy Towns Competition but is generally a result of constant work to a plan, attention to detail and the involvement of your Local Authority, FAS and other agencies. Aim to do specific things each year within your physical and financial resources. Bennettsbridge will undoubtedly figure highly in the Tidy Towns Competition in years to come.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (8/8/97)

Bennettsbridge was presented to an excellent standard for second adjudication and was a pleasure to visit on a warm August day. Trees and shrubs planted in previous years are maturing nicely and flower displays were quite magnificent both in numbers and in the impact of colour. Perhaps the least well presented road was the Waterford approach. However as planting on this road matures, it will make a significant contribution to the appearance of this entrance to the village. As noted in previous years, the building at the bridge is in need of some attention and of course St. Bennet's Hall looks rather dilapidated. During second adjudication, an amount of litter was noted along the footpath between St. Bennet's Hall and the Centra Shop in front of the building under construction. Congratulations on an excellent presentation overall and we look forward to your progress in the years to come.