

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GORESBRIDGE**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	197	192

Goresbridge, Co. Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is good to read that you are receiving continuous support from your Local Authority, FAS, many commercial firms and private individuals for your Tidy Towns effort. Your entry form makes very impressive reading and thank you for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. You will have received an in-depth report from last years adjudicator. The following comments should be read in conjunction with that report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Your Churches, Schools and Convent looked excellent on adjudication day and business premises were also well presented. Try to persuade business premises not to erect hanging signs of the plastic type. If they must do so encourage them to provide well designed wooden or cast iron signs which would be much more in keeping with the local architecture. Some of the comments in last years adjudication are still applicable under this heading.

LANDSCAPING

Excellent work has been done by your Committee and all planted open spaces were noted on adjudication day as were other flower arrangements, window boxes, etc. It is noted from your entry form that you are working with your Local Authority on the planting of trees, etc in the Red Mills area. This will greatly enhance this approach to Goresbridge. Please continue to be advised by your Local Authority or Coillte or some knowledgeable person in your locality when embarking on the planting of trees and shrubs which should be done in a judicious manner as over-planting can cause clutter. In the case of shrubs try to plan the flowering kind which will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. The River Bank development at the Barrow Bridge is excellent and will be nominated for this years Waterside Award. There are probably many other places in Goresbridge and its approaches which could benefit from judicious planting on the basis outlined above.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your comments under this heading on the entry form have been noted. This is a comparatively new category in the competition which asks of committees that they try to identify wildlife habitats such as woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards, walls, etc on which they could take some action in the interest of not alone the wildlife content but also the environment in general. The guidelines in the Tidy Towns brochure offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives your Committee might undertake. If there is a local wildlife expert or a member of your Community with experience in this area please seek their advice.

LITTER CONTROL

There was practically no litter to be seen in Goresbridge on

adjudication day. Sincerest congratulations to all concerned.

TIDINESS

The village was presented in a neat and tidy manner which suggests that local people are becoming conscious and proud of their environment. Again, congratulations to all concerned.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Goresbridge has many private residences and it is of the utmost importance that your Tidy Towns effort has their full support. Otherwise you cannot succeed in the competition. This however was apparent on adjudication day. Most private houses looked extremely well and some very nice gardens were also presented. The residences of Cluain Mhuire estate are again to be congratulated on the upkeep of their open space and their flower beds. Their work in this regard is exceptional. The lovely stone cottages on Barrowmount Road continue to be an architectural highlight of Goresbridge. Please make sure that they are preserved just as they are.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces were very good. Unfortunately, some of the approaches need cutting and indeed many gutters were very heavily weeded. Your comments in this respect regarding the FAS workers was noted. It is a continuous job particularly during a wet Summer. Many of the comments by last years adjudicator under this heading are still applicable and would need to be taken into consideration in any future planning.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Goresbridge is indeed a very pleasant town, very compact and with great potential. In conjunction with your Local Authority, state agencies and the local Community you should draw up a 3 to 5 Year Plan on the basis of what can realistically be achieved on a year to year basis within your physical and financial resources. Success in the Tidy Towns Competition does not come overnight and those you have been successful have followed this plan gaining additional marks each year and ultimately coming into consideration for either County, Regional or National awards. Look at what other centres, such as Inistioge and Bennettsbridge, have done. They too started from small beginnings. Goresbridge can be equally as successful.