

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **INISTIOGE**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	228	223

Inistioge, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This year's adjudicator had not visited Inistioge for some time and was delighted to see the wonderful improvements which had taken place over the past years. In all of this it was good to see that you continue to have the support of your Local Authority, FAS and other agencies as well as the local village and rural communities. Inistioge has great potential to progress much further in the competition in which case this kind of support is absolutely critical. Thank you for the very useful map. Last year's adjudicator gave an in-depth report on Inistioge. The following comments should be read in the context of that report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Business premises were again very well presented. However the prominent building behind The Pump in High Street looks very run down and being in such a prominent position, takes away from what is otherwise a lovely location. The Inistioge Credit Union also looks somewhat drab and could do with some refurbishment. Your comments regarding Preservation Hall were noted but, on adjudication day, it appeared that work had not commenced on this building. Both Churches were again splendidly presented and the School also looked excellent.

LANDSCAPING

Comments made in last year's report were still applicable on adjudication day. The open spaces in the village area look magnificent and are a great credit to all concerned. Additional works pointed out on the map were noted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your comments in this respect have been noted although there was no evidence of swans or wild duck, etc on adjudication day. This is comparatively a new category in the competition with an emphasis on conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats. Your Committee might also look at the possibility of developing other habitats such as hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls. The guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. On the basis of what you have already done there would appear to be a great local interest in wildlife and if you have a wildlife expert or a member of your Community with experience in this area please do seek their advice.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no litter to be seen on adjudication day. Sincerest congratulations to all.

TIDINESS

The village was presented in a very tidy manner. However, in

spite of evidence that the problem is being dealt with, weeding still appears to be a problem in certain places and it is this sort of attention to detail that will get you extra marks in the competition.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most private houses in particular were very well presented with many having attractive gardens. However the Council estate on Mill Road looked a little bit untidy. Open spaces were being neatly kept but the surrounds of some houses need attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Verges were again very trim on adjudication day. Road surfaces are generally good. The comments in last year's report are still applicable.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As stated above Inistioge's future progress in the Tidy Towns Competition will depend on attention to detail. In consultation with your Local Authority, FAS, other agencies and your local Community, there is a need to draw up a 3 to 5-Year Plan of work which can be realistically implemented. Success does not come overnight in the competition but is the result of continuous, well planned activity which has been the hallmark of many of the prize winners. Inistioge is a delightful place and has the potential to progress much further in the competition.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/8/97)

Inistioge looked wonderful on the occasion of our second visit. Scaffolding was noted on a building in the square behind the green. We wish you well with the completion of work in progress here. We also look forward to the refurbishment of other buildings, for example the Credit Union, the garage, a corrugated roof beside the hotel and some boundary walls. Congratulations on improvements in the council estate on Mill Road, particularly the new stretch of footpath. Car wrecks noted in the field behind the graveyard together with an old corrugated building should be removed from public view from this fine amenity area. Improvements to the river walk have been noted. More could be achieved for this important amenity; for example potholes could be eliminated altogether, walls marking the entrance together with the entrance gate could be upgraded and a small fingerpost or plaque giving details of distance and duration of time could be provided. The information panels throughout the village are a wonderful idea and very useful for visitors. They encourage visitors to stay and enjoy what Inistioge has to offer.

A word of caution as regards removing plaster from old stone walls and buildings - before any work is undertaken ensure that the old stone is of a good enough quality and that the plaster is not the lime based plaster which is a traditional feature of the built environment of Irish towns and villages. The beautiful flower displays and exhibition of old farm equipment on the Kilkenny entrance to the village were much admired and St. Comcill's graveyard was a very enjoyable experience. Well done on a fine presentation, we look forward to many more visits to your lovely village.

