

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **PILTOWN**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209	205

Piltown, Co. Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you indeed for all the information supplied with your entry form all of which was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to see the support which your Committee is continuing to receive from your Local Authority, FAS, the Schools and the Community in general. All of this is absolutely essential for continued progress in the competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Churches (and their cemeteries), Garda Station and Schools were again very well presented on adjudication day. Their gardens and surrounds were excellent. Some of the comments made by last years adjudicator still apply particular with reference to dereliction. In a small community it is difficult to decide how this should be sensitively handled but perhaps a direct approach to the owners with sensible suggestions as to future usage of such sites might help. Business premises in the village looked exceptional well. It is important that you continue to receive the support of the commercial sector. However try to encourage them to use more imaginative signs and, where possible, to remove those of a plastic nature. Nicely designed wooden or corrugated iron signs look much better and would be more in keeping with the architecture of the village.

LANDSCAPING

Your continued work on this aspect of the competition was noted on adjudication day. Flower beds are being well maintained and in this connection those on the Clonmel and Waterford approaches looked exceptionally well and created a very nice impression on entering the village. The area around the entrance to Kildalton College has been extremely well designed and handled. The Committee should now try to identify other areas where judicious tree and shrub planting could take place. In the case of the latter try to ensure that those planted will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. The emphasis here is on the word judicious as to plant too many trees only causes clutter. Plant trees and shrubs in a situation where they will soften the landscape. In this event draw on whatever local knowledge may be available to you through your Local Authority, Teagasc and Coillte or perhaps you have someone on your Committee who would be expert in this respect. Take the best advice possible.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new category in the competition and is aimed at encouraging committees to become involved in 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 the Committee should try to identify and develop as far as possible

such habitats in your area and then determine appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Further guidelines and suggestions appear in the Tidy Towns book as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. In the event try to get a wildlife expert or a member of your Community with experience in this area which your Committee can draw on. Piltown are to be congratulated on the fact that they have made a very good start in this respect with their River Project.

LITTER CONTROL

This was very good on adjudication day except for one or two minor incidences mainly in the area of The Creamery and The Power Villas estate.

TIDINESS

Again the village was presented in a very tidy manner. However the precincts of one or two commercial premises still need a tidying up as they take away from the overall impression of what is otherwise a very tidy village. It is expected that, in some cases, there has to be outdoor storage but with a little bit of effort this can be done in a much more imaginative and tidy manner.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Piltown is highly residential and in the vast majority of cases private houses were excellent. Many had wonderful gardens. Some of the older housing estates however are beginning to show their wear. If you have not already done so perhaps it might be an idea to form residents associations in each of the estates and co-opt a member on to your Committee. In that way any deficiencies in housing estates can be diplomatically highlighted. Perhaps a low-key estate and/or street competition would also help, without, of course, creating rivalry. The new landscaping and stream side development at Hill Crest is exceptional and could be used as a headline for many other towns and villages in the country.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Evidence of hedge cutting was in progress on adjudication day. The comments made in last year's report would seem to have been acted on. Generally speaking road surfaces are excellent. In most cases grass verges and open spaces were neatly kept. There is however still a need for some stone walls to be maintained and repaired. Perhaps this is an area where your FAS workers could get involved.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Piltown continues to progress in the competition and looked extremely well on adjudication day. You should continue to implement the recommendations outlined in last year's detailed report side by side with the comments made in this report. Because of the strung out nature of the village constant vigilance is necessary particularly in the areas of litter control and tidiness. Your forward planning is excellent. Try to do a certain amount each year in line with the physical resources available to you.

