

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **STONEYFORD**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	20
The Built Environment	40	22	20
Landscaping	40	25	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	16
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	14	12
Residential Areas	30	16	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	5
TOTAL MARK	300	193	175

Stoneyford, Co. Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the wealth of information supplied with the entry form and for the map and photographs which were most useful on adjudication day. Your Committee is doing excellent work. It is gratifying to see the continued support which you are receiving from the Local Authority, from FAS and other agencies as well as increased local involvement. Success in the Tidy Towns Competition does not come overnight. It calls for careful planning over a 3 to 5 year period. For such a plan to be realistic it should be drawn up in conjunction with your Local Authority, FAS and other agencies and with the full involvement of your local Community. Last year you received an in-depth report from the adjudicator. The following comments should be read in conjunction with that report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church, School and Community Hall were again very well presented on adjudication day. Some of the comments however made by the adjudicator last year are still applicable and more attention needs to be given to the painting of individual premises. The building at Noresland Corner was noted and will greatly improve the appearance of that particular area in years to come. Some gables are still in need of painting or repair and where visible certainly take away from the overall appearance of the village.

LANDSCAPING

Your efforts in this regard have been excellent. Congratulations to all concerned. Your open spaces have been beautifully turned out and where window boxes and tubs of flowers have been provided these have been well maintained. The whole village looked very colourful on adjudication day. You might however consider the judicious planting of trees and flowering shrubs which, in the case of the latter, should be selected in order to give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. The emphasis however is on the word judicious as to plant too many trees and shrubs only causes clutter whereas selective planting will have the effect of softening the environment of the village and its surrounds. Please do however take the best advice available on this from your Local Authority, Coillte or any other qualified person in your area and do it on a planned basis.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a comparatively new category in the competition with 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. Your Committee should try to identify such habitats in your area and what appropriate actions they might take to conserve and enhance them. Further 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 please do avail of their services. Your Local Authority may be of assistance to you also in this regard. Your comments regarding wildlife on the application form have been noted.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no litter visible in Stoneyford on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned.

TIDINESS

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. However, on adjudication day the area around Stoneyford Engineering could have been better presented. It is excepted, in some cases, there has to be on-street storage but this should be tidily done where at all possible. The Avonmore sign on Sheridans building continues to dominate the skyline. The adjudicator feels certain that if this Company was approached they might be willing either to remove the sign totally or have it scaled down.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The presentation of individual homes is undoubtedly one of the biggest features of the Stoneyford Tidy Towns effort and again, in the majority of cases, they were beautifully presented this year. Congratulations to all concerned. Many have lovely gardens or in the absence of gardens have provided tubs of flowers and window boxes which greatly enhance the whole ambience of the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces on all the approach roads are good. The hedgerows and verges of some of these roads do need trimming as, following a wet summer they were somewhat overgrown. However the suggestion now is that verges should not be cut back entirely and that a margin of grass should be left in order to propagate the growing of wild flowers. In order words they should be cut roughly half way back from the edge of the road to the hedge or wall.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Stoneyford is making great strides in the competition and this is being reflected in their 1997 marking. The important thing from now on is to plan your work carefully from year to year, involve your local agencies and your Community. Do as much as you can within limits of your financial and physical resources and, most important, continue to maintain what you have already done.