

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BANOQUE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	29
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	29	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	19	19
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	177	170

Banogue, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Banogue has made a committed effort to improving the status of the village in this its second year in the competition. The plan and detailed map outline in clear and concise terms what the village wishes to achieve over the next number of years. Last year's adjudication comments have been taken on board and a strengths and weaknesses exercise has been undertaken with a view to ensuring that the 3 year plan will address issues in a practical manner. The interaction between the committee, local authority and other agencies is very good; long may it continue as this is the essence of good planning. The adjudicator appreciated the detailed questionnaire and map which were most helpful on adjudication day.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

On adjudication day, all premises (public, commercial and private) were well presented. The Maxol station at the cross has been refurbished with further improvements to follow, this development is welcome as this area is really the focal point of the village as you pass through on the Limerick/Cork road. Dore's shop is significantly different from your normal village shop in that it has a private dwelling look about it which blends in with the village image. Banogue like many similar villages and towns in County Limerick, contains many dwellings and buildings which are synonymous with the Golden Vale. One such building is the old creamery; hopefully this will be kept intact irrespective of what use it is put to. Remember it is a remnant of a rich heritage from days past. The school and church grounds have been revitalised by sensible landscaping and cleaning and painting of boundary walls; this is part of the ongoing plan for this particular area. The wire fence with blue and white posts south of the service station was a bit of an eyesore if it can't be upgraded then it should be removed altogether. The picnic and rest area was very well presented with new furniture and litter bins adding to the facility. The effort that was put into this category since last year was very evident.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping undertaken along the main Cork/Limerick road was very eye catching as it blended in extremely well with existing impressive hedgerows and trees. It was noticeable, especially at the picnic area, that thought was given to the mix of shrubs which would give an all year round effect rather than placing too much emphasis on annual bedding plants. All grass verges were cut and cleaned, while hedgerows were maintained in a way that was conducive to all wildlife.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Banogue has an abundance of hedgerows, various species of trees and shrubs and many wild flowers all of which are conducive to various forms of wildlife. The advice given in last years

adjudication report should be acted upon. There is no reference in the questionnaire to any communication with local environmental groups or experts that may be in the vicinity. The involvement of the local school in a wildlife project would be a positive step as young people bring a refreshing enthusiasm to such an undertaking. An audit of all species of wildlife in the area could form part of this project; these could be depicted on an information board somewhere central in the village.

LITTER CONTROL

Banogue was reasonably free of litter on adjudication day. However, some was noted particularly some papers adjacent to the church grounds. Overall, the litter problem was being tackled with receptacles placed at appropriate points.

TIDINESS

This year a greater effort was evident in this category as the village was for the most part relatively weed free. The old creamery yard was tidied up and the gate was painted. Unfortunately, wire fencing on the opposite side of the road was unsightly; this area should be addressed prior to next years competition. The large amount of scrapped cars at the cross on the road to the church certainly demeans the efforts of the rest of the villagers; hopefully the committee can encourage the owner to play his/her part in further improving the image of Banogue by clearing them away or at the very least camouflaging them by erecting a fence until the committee's efforts in acquiring part of the property are realised.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All residents are playing their part in this category as most houses, frontages and adjacent yards were in good condition. Again as was noted in last years notes there are a few problem areas which hopefully will be put in order over the coming year. Congratulations to those who have made a special effort to present their holdings to a very high standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approaches on the main Limerick/Cork road were maintained to a very high standard and the landscaping has been commented on elsewhere in this report. Unfortunately the church road was a bit untidy; even though margins were cut, grass was not cleared. On the Athlacca/Kilmallock road grass margins needed to be cut; however, to be fair, there were hedgerows which were trimmed back without affecting the wildlife habitat.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As was the case last year Banogue looked well, even though the residents, as was this adjudicator, were a little despondent after Limerick's demise in the hurling championship two days prior. Problem areas are being tackled and one can see that the committee is extremely enthusiastic.