

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BRUFF**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	219	215

Bruff, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning completed questionnaire together with 5 year work plan and detailed map of the town and its environs with various work programmes colour coded. The committee which is not large by present day standards is very active and has maximised its relationship with the local authority and other state agencies. The committee has succeeded admirably in harnessing the efforts of all sections of the local community in ensuring that Bruff retains its high standing in the competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard in this category was quite good and one can see improvement in the presentation of both commercial and private buildings. Public and other buildings were also presented to a very high standard but unfortunately there is still an unacceptable level of dereliction in the town proper. The owners of a number of old houses, some former business premises, on the Kilmallock end of the main street, should be approached to at least accept that these buildings are not alone an eyesore but a possible danger. Commercial buildings such as Reas Pub, Butlers, Moloneys, The Veterinary Clinic and Quiltys with its traditional shopfront are major assets to the town. The Town Park amenity, with the Morning Star river crystal clear as ever flowing through, is an eyecatcher. The site of a group of mallard ducks resting on the bank gave a very peaceful air to the place. The Courthouse at the Croom Road end of the town is a very imposing building well maintained. The same cannot be said for the old Garda Station which if not taken care of soon will become very tatty. I presume this is now the property of the OPW if so the committee should make representations to make sure that the building is maintained properly. The Catholic Church was well presented as was the Church of Ireland and its surrounds. The GAA Grounds and the Microtherm Factory were extremely well maintained credit to those responsible for their upkeep. The National School and the FCJ Convent on the Kilmallock Road were in good condition although the statue (Edmund Rice?) in the NS yard was quite dirty. Businesses should be discouraged from using protruding plastic signs, Bruff is not the worst culprit in this category.

LANDSCAPING

The standard, as was the case last year, was very high. In fact this is the category which the towns excels in. This adjudicator was taken by the Town /River Park with its combination of Copper Beeches, beautifully kept rose beds and a complementary mix of annuals and shrubs. The back drop of the Protestant Church added to the spectacle. Tree planted on the verges on the Kilmallock Road are now maturing nicely, obviously well maintained. Microtherm deserve special mention for having their entrance nicely landscaped it takes away the factory look from the place. The trees dotted around the town break up the monotony

of lines of buildings. There are other examples of prudent landscaping which contribute to the towns pleasant appearance so congratulations to all.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is noted that as part of your 5 year plan that you intend to encourage progress in this sector and indeed you have identified habitats within and around the town. Now is the time to go one step further and initiate a project that will involve both primary and post primary pupils.

LITTER CONTROL

The town was free of litter on adjudication day and there were sufficient bins placed in and around the town. Good to see that the voluntary work in this category is being rewarded, others will follow this example.

TIDINESS

A few problem areas exist in this category but overall it was quite good. There is a very untidy open site on Lr Main Street this is taken away from the overall appearance of the town. The sign post at the junction for Hospital is cluttered with signs, this looks very untidy. The boundary wall at the corner of Main Street on the Croom Road is still unpainted and still looked quite grubby. Weed control was generally very good with a few exceptions on the Hospital Road and on Lr Main Street as one heads for Kilmallock.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was good. The established terrace of houses as you approach from Limerick were in pristine condition. Similarly the houses on the Hospital road were also well presented with some very nice gardens, the residents obviously take pride in their area. Sycamore Drive is a relatively new estate but again credit must be given to the residents for maintaining it to a high standard. There were some fine examples of well maintained private residences dotted around the town and on the outskirts. Newly constructed bungalows had nice gardens and were tastefully painted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Consistency was the key in this category in that all approaches were basically maintained with verges cut back and hedgerows trimmed to take into account the needs of various species of wildlife. The Kilmallock Road was very impressive with green margins maturing trees augmented by nice boundary walls and footpaths. The Athlacca Road was also nice with appropriate flower beds and walls. The Limerick and Croom Roads were well maintained with all verges cut back. It was noticeable that all signs were visible and clean, this helps to create a good first impression.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Bruff has set high standards, this can be seen by its rating in the competition over the years and this year was no exception. The

Tidy Towns Committee has been very successful in channelling effort into good results. It should target dereliction in the town as its main priority for next year as it is taking away from an otherwise impressive showing.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/8/97)

The river and riverside areas developed for walks and leisure are a tremendous asset to Bruff. The efforts of householders in keeping their gardens well, greatly enhances the town. Some neglected premises in the town are detracting from the overall picture. Beautiful mature beech, chestnut and lime trees at the riverside park are wonderful but where are the replacements for these trees for the next few generations to enjoy ?. Some tree planting on the large green in Sycamore Drive would be desirable.