

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BRUREE**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	18
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>204</b>

## **Bruree, County Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the detailed questionnaire and map which was very helpful to the adjudicator.

The enclosed 5 year work plan outlines in detail, objectives both short and long term that are practical and achievable over the given period. On reading the plan one can ascertain immediately that Bruree Tidy Towns Committee has its finger very much on the pulse. The ten key objectives set out in this plan are basically very straightforward and could be applied to most villages or towns, but it takes effort and co-operation to formulate such a plan and for this the committee are to be commended. There is a very strong link between the committee, other local organisations, the Local Authority and public sector bodies. This is the type of linkage that brings success to towns and villages like Bruree.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The standard in this category was very good all public and commercial buildings were for the most part presented to a very high standard. One could sense that the residents of Bruree, be they business people or private residents, have a great sense of pride of place. As stated in the plan Brurees streetscape is in deed very attractive and the proposal to strengthen the overall impact by implementing a co ordinated painting scheme is to be welcomed. I would guard against too much co-ordination as each building is different in the eyes of its owner, but I am sure that the committee will seek the best professional advice on the matter. The proposal to eventually have all wires running underground is very welcome. On adjudication day the following impacted on the adjudicator; the School was very impressive, grounds were maintained to a high standard and they contain lovely rose beds, a very attractive cottage across the way complemented the school; the Bridge over the River Maigue is a focal point and the black and yellow warning stripes need to be repainted. The Old Mill is looking a little forlorn, at one stage there were plans to develop same, it is a pity that something can not be done to improve the facade. The Riverside Park as an amenity is excellent and no doubt there are plans for further developments here. Cuan Mhuire on the outskirts of the town has a very impressive and well maintained entrance. The following premises were in top condition, Berties Bar even though the sign is a bit obtrusive, John Moloneys Bar and Ray Moloneys Butchers Shop. Hogans has a nice frontage but the signage could be improved upon. There are a number of very impressive private dwellings, including new town houses in the process of construction, both in the village and in the environs. The Church was well presented and both The Community Hall and The DeValera Museum were also in good condition, congratulations to those people responsible for their upkeep.

### **LANDSCAPING**

This a category that the village is strong in and there is a proposal

for eight more initiatives in the 5 year plan which will enhance Bruree even further. The very impressive Town Park area with its attractive weir on the River Maigue had some nice planting arrangements. The planting arrangement at the Railway Bridge was very attractive with its blend of low shrubs and perennials that give colour all year round. The standard of flower arrangements in premises in the village itself was very high, there were some excellent hanging baskets and tubs on view. The presentation of the two village pumps were once again admired though the one at the Athlacca Cross was in need of painting.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

As part of the 5 year plan it is important to make provision for developments in this category.

The Village is blessed that it has a natural habitat in the river area at the town park , I noticed that the rough grass or reed was prevalent at the bank of the river and this is ideal for attracting birds and insects. The ducks were in evidence in adjudication day, this coupled with the fact that the Maigue is a recognised fishing river gives the village a distinct advantage in this category. The committee should build on these factors.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was no evidence of litter on adjudication day. It is good to see that the plan envisages involving children in projects that are litter control related as well as reminding the adult population that this is a sector that needs constant monitoring.

## **TIDINESS**

The first impression one has of Bruree is that it is extremely neat and tidy but on closer examination there are a number of areas that need to be addressed. To be fair the committee have recognised this in their submission and are taking steps to redress the problem areas. A couple of places come to mind that are in need of immediate attention most notably the wire fencing on the way in from Kilmallock, this is not in keeping with the image of the rest of the village. There is evidence of some weeding around the car park of the GAA Ground which other wise was well presented. Derelict houses of which there are a few need to be refurbished, the committee is in the process of encouraging owners to react in a positive fashion.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The houses in the core of the village were for the most part well presented though some side and back areas need to be tidier. The cottages at the mill road were lovely, whitewashed and some with hanging baskets and flower tubs. Well done to all. De Valera Park was in good condition although some residences were in need of painting and rubbish was evident at the entrance. The older terrace of houses, at the back of the museum were very nice with some lovely little gardens to be seen. The footpath was a little the worse for wear and slightly weedy.

## **ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The approach roads were very well maintained , margins were cut

and hedgerows trimmed appropriately. The Charleville Road has a very impressive entrance with the old estate wall and trees lining the opposite side. The Rourkes Cross approach was also in good condition, both the service station and the creamery premises were very well presented. Similarly the Kilmallock Road was also in good shape except for the previously mentioned wire fencing.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The Bruree Tidy Towns Committee are to be complimented for the work they have done over the years. The Village is improving with each year and now with the 5 year plan being put in place one can expect even greater achievements in the years ahead.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/8/97)**

Both the river and the historic significance give Bruree a special character. Enormous efforts have been made. Further focusing now on the riverside areas to enhance this aspect and make greater use of the old mill area should be considered. The containers outside the De Valera centre are disappointing. Individual gardens can contribute greatly to the overall effect and encouragement should be given to progress these a little more.