

Tidy Towns 1997

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **EFFIN**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-97

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 27                | --                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 26                | --                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 25                | --                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 17                | --                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 21                | --                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 12                | --                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 19                | --                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 25                | --                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 6                 | --                |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>178</b>        | <b>--</b>         |

## **Effin, Co. Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Effin is welcome to the 1997 competition. Thank you for the detailed questionnaire and map which were extremely helpful to the adjudicator. It is good to see a committee which is representative of all sections of the local community. It is important that the committee give consideration to putting together a three year plan and further developing links with the Local Authority, Ballyhoura Failte and other relevant public sector bodies, most notably FAS.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The standard in this category was very good. The Church was in pristine condition on a glorious summer day. A little more planting at the Church would enhance it even further. The Graveyard was also very well presented even if it was a little bare. The Canon Hayes Memorial Hall, a mecca for dancers in the sixties and seventies, was extremely clean and in good structural order. There were a number of very impressive private dwellings in the village; the farmhouse opposite the church was excellent as was the large house as one enters from the Kilmallock end. The PO is in need of revitalising and should be more presentable for next years competition. The residents of Effin are to be congratulated for the manner in which they have presented both public and private buildings in this their first year in the competition.

### **LANDSCAPING**

It is important that the committee initiate planting schemes around the village as it lacks both greenery and colour at present. There are a number of areas where prudent tree planting would be very beneficial. The Hall, Church and Grotto, and Graveyard should be selected as pilot areas and advice sought on the type of planting arrangements that would be most suitable. For instance there is a boundary wall with wire fencing opposite the Hall which is rather bare and unsightly, this could be selected as a base for nice stone flower beds.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats, and there many, in and around the village and see what species of animals, birds and insects these attract. Why not enlist the advice of a local environmentalist to help in putting together a proposal for a project that would benefit the village. It is important to get local schoolchildren involved as it gives them a sense of pride of place.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There was relatively little litter in the village and its environs on adjudication day. A few more bins on the outskirts of the village on both approaches are needed. Don't relax the effort and make sure that schoolchildren are introduced to the need for good litter

control.

## **TIDINESS**

The overall appearance of the village was one of neatness and tidiness with a few exceptions. The new footpaths are excellent and a welcome addition. Unfortunately there is a very tatty wire fence on the boundary wall of the field opposite the Hall and Church. The base of this wall was quite weedy and should be cleaned. The signs at the Ballyhaght cross were a little grubby and the sign for the Effin GAA Grounds was not visible.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Effin is a small village and any little blackspot will stand out. The standard of presentation of private residences and adjacent properties, be the farm yards or gardens, was top class. It would be unfair to highlight individual residences in this category as all have made good efforts to show off their premises to good effect.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The approach roads were acceptable but need more attention prior to next year's competition. The approach from the Charleville/Kilmallock end was slightly overgrown and the grass margins need to be cut back. Similarly, with the Ballyhaght entrance the verges need to be cut back and the hedgerows were very much overgrown.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Effin is a lovely village nestled in Ballyhoura country. In this its first year in the competition it has done quite well. The committee have worked hard to involve all sections of the community and have forged good links with relevant agencies and the local authority. The village has the potential to do very well in the competition in future years.