

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **O'BRIENS BRIDGE**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	189	187

O'Briens Bridge, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning the completed entry form together with accompanying map and details of your 3 year working plan. The village looked well on adjudication day and much of the hard work of previous years is now bearing fruit. However, some of the developments of previous years now needs updating and refurbishing and this is the task that should be tackled before you move on to new developments. In general there is no evidence of extra improvements since last years adjudication.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village is endowed with one of the most beautiful landscapes in the region. The long wide stretch of river, with well developed riverbank walk and amenities makes O'Brien's Bridge unique. With the uniqueness comes the challenge to ensure good maintenance and appropriate development. The grass along the river walk was well kept and very little litter in evidence despite the many picnic tables. The main street has many attractive shops and houses and the small residential pockets of development are, in the main, well kept. The B&B houses are, without exception well presented and some have attractive gardens.

LANDSCAPING

Again this year the landscaping along the river bank is excellent. Because of the many natural features in the village you do not need to overdo man-made landscaping. Longterm, you might consider a tree planting scheme for the main street. This would be effective, only if you got full co-operation that would enable all of the streets to be planted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The area abounds in wildlife and you have little to do except perhaps erect a display board for interpretation. This would facilitate visitors and locals alike, and give people a greater appreciation of our wildlife.

LITTER CONTROL

There is no apparent problem with litter except for a couple of pockets near the tennis court. In general, litter control is good and bins are being emptied.

TIDINESS

Your problem here is the great amount of small neglected undeveloped pockets between buildings. In particular the road up

to the Caravan Park is disappointing. Also at the other end of the main street there are overgrown areas keeping your marks down in this section. Your signage is in need of painting and especially the posts near the tennis court. The fáilte sign on the Mounpelier side of the bridge is very effective and well presented. If the Council will not paint the signs and posts you should do so yourselves as they project an image of untidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Some residents have gone to great trouble to keep their houses well presented and many have well developed colourful gardens. Some of the small estates have potential for much improvement but would need to do so on a co-ordinated basis. This is a task for the local committee to encourage more community effort.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Your weakness here is with the many small and side roads that are poorly presented. The village layout exposes many side and back entrances to the view of the traveller and owners of such areas should be encouraged to keep them neat and tidy.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village has much to offer and provides an attractive location for people to live in and an opportunity for tourism to benefit the area. Its potential is not yet achieved and you now need to apply your efforts to the implementation of the village renewal plan and to the suggestions made above. Good luck for 1999.