

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BENNETTSBRIDGE**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	36	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	230	221

Bennettsbridge, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is indeed gratifying to hear of the unstinting continued support you are receiving for your Tidy Towns effort from both the community and official bodies. The information you have sent was most impressive and thank you for the very detailed map which was most useful on adjudication day. It would, of course, be impossible to comment on all of the items mentioned in your documentation but they are proof, if proof is needed of the commitment of your Committee to the Tidy Towns concept, the real proof being visible in your beautiful village. You received two comprehensive reports in 1996 and 1997 so the following is by way of comment on the progress you have made this year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The church, cemetery, schools and Grotto looked very well on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. The site of the old community hall was visited and its demolition noted.

LANDSCAPING

This aspect of the competition is, of course, one of the big strengths of your Tidy Towns effort and was a joy to behold. Your comments regarding maintenance were noted. This is indeed a problem every committee has particularly in dry weather. It is a good argument for perhaps giving more thought to the planting of trees and shrubs which need less maintenance and will give colour on an all-year-round basis. Reference to this was made in last year's adjudication. A classic area for such planting would be the new GAA wall which looked very well on adjudication day but is rather stark. The judicious planting of trees and shrubs would soften this aspect of the development. Nevertheless the benefits on what has been done over the last 20 years in Bennettsbridge are now there to be seen and what a magnificent sight it is.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your comments in this respect are noted. It does however call for some specific project and perhaps you might give some thought to this for 1999. In the meantime you will maintain your marking under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no litter to be seen in Bennettsbridge on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned.

TIDINESS

Comments under this heading last year are probably still applicable. However the village was presented again in a very neat and tidy manner which reflects great credit on your committee and residents.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All housing estates in the village were visited. In the majority of cases they were very well kept but some open spaces needed cutting. It is appreciated that in periods of high grass growth this can prove difficult but is necessary if they are to maintain a crisp look. This aspect of the Competition is also one of the main planks in your success story. Congratulations to all concerned !

ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads in general were excellent particularly those from Kilkenny and Wexford. Road surfaces are very good and pathways, where provided, were also excellent.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Bennettsbridge continues, in this adjudicators opinion, to be one of the nicest villages in Ireland and can only succeed further in the Tidy Towns Competition. Your planning is excellent. Try to do a number of projects each year within your physical and financial resources and, as mentioned last year, attention to detail is what is going to gain additional valuable marks for you in the future. Keep in touch with your Local Authorities and your Regional Tourism Authority in Kilkenny who are responsible for the promotion of the Tidy Towns concept. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Bennettsbridge again next year. While this year's map was excellent, it might be better for future years just to mark on the map where new developments have taken place which makes it very easy to find them on adjudication day.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/98)

It is most encouraging to see Bennettsbridge steadily rise in marks. Your detailed submission clearly demonstrates that you have a clear purpose and direction in all that you undertake. The planting of more than five hundred broad leaf trees in itself is an excellent achievement as it will provide a valuable legacy for future generations. The undergrounding of cables is another very worth while project. Whereas most of the buildings are well presented there are still some untidy yards and incidental open spaces which could be improved upon. For instance, the weedy yard beside the bridge is particularly unfortunate as it occupies such a strategically important location. The bright cheerful colours of many buildings are most effective, and must uplift spirits on gloomy days. In particular this adjudicators architectural colleagues have contributed greatly to the streetscape and furthermore to the riverside. The back of all buildings should also be considered when in view from the public domain as the village

is perceived as a three dimensional object rather than a series of facades. A little litter was evident but clearly you have it under control. Grass cutting and planting, especially in residential areas was of a very high standard.