

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **PILTOWN**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	31
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	209

Piltown, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you once again for the excellent information supplied with your entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. It is again encouraging to see the tremendous support your Committee continues to receive from your Local Authority, FAS, the Regional Tourism Authority, your school children and church committees which guarantees continued progress for Piltown in the competition. A tremendous amount of development work has taken place this year of which there was practical evidence on adjudication day.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

All public buildings including churches, Garda station, schools etc. were again excellently presented with, in many cases, wonderful surroundings. Your comments regarding derelict sites were noted. Unfortunately the problem is still with you but, on the basis of your report, will hopefully disappear within the next year or two. Business premises again looked exceptionally well and the evidence of the "Tour de France" effort is to be seen everywhere. The objective now should be to have this work enhanced and continued in future years, a matter which is bound to gain you additional marks in the competition. As part of this do take into consideration the comments made by the adjudicator last year regarding signs and shop fronts, the implementation of which would greatly enhance Piltown because of the nature of its architecture.

LANDSCAPING

Your continuous landscaping programme is undoubtedly the strong element of your Tidy Towns effort and your great work in this respect was duly noted on adjudication day. Your flower beds have again been well maintained look exceptionally well this year aided no doubt by the indifferent weather. Do however take note of last years adjudicators comments regarding tree and shrub planting. Flower beds are delightful but need constant maintenance. In addition , shrubs in particular will give you some colour on an all year round basis if you judiciously plant it. The landscaping in the vicinity of Iverk Products Ltd was exceptional. On adjudication day Piltown was a blaze of colour and all concerned are to be congratulated.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your work under this heading was noted and seen. Please however continue to give further consideration to this aspect of the competition which, in the long term, be a great enhancement to your community and its living environment.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no litter to be seen on the main street in Piltown on adjudication day. Some minor littering, however, was noted on the road to Kildalton College. Litter needs constant monitoring and when all your road and path works have been completed perhaps your Local Authority might supply you with a few extra bins which would help to alleviate such a situation.

TIDINESS

Taking into consideration the amount of work taking place on roads and footpaths the village, generally speaking was presented in a neat and tidy manner and, in the circumstances, congratulations are due to all concerned. The comments in last years report have obviously been taken to heart. Many premises have improved on their outside storage situation. However, one or two still need to look at this as a contribution to the Tidy Towns effort. Approach roads in general are been well kept although some are still somewhat overgrown due possibly to the wet weather. Try in as far as is possible to get your Local Authority or your FAS workers involved in this aspect of the competition bearing in mind that the present thinking is that grass verges should not be too severely cut back to allow the growth of wild flowers.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The presentation of residential areas in Piltown again is another major factor in your Tidy Towns effort and this year is no exception. Individual houses and housing estates were again, and in some cases, exceptionally well presented, many with wonderful gardens showing great colour. However, in some cases, the comment made last year that " some of the older estates are beginning to show their wear" does not seem to have been acted upon and work is needed in this respect. In one or two cases open spaces in the estates could also be better presented. Hill Crest was, as in the past, very well presented.

ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS

Exceptional work is taking place on the streets and the footpaths and it was easy to visualise how they will look in the very near future. This aspect of your work was therefore taken into consideration on adjudication day. Generally speaking back streets looked well but some hedges and grass margins needed cutting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Excellent progress has been made again this year. If you have not already done so you should draw up a 3/5 year plan of specific projects to be carried out within your physical and financial resources using as a base the comments made in this and previous years reports and working closely with your Local Authority, FAS and your Regional Tourism Authority. In the case

of the latter a video is available on the Tidy Towns competition in general which gives an indication of the sort of projects undertaken by other centres. In addition you should endeavour to visit other prize winning centres nearby, such as Kilkenny, Inistioge, Ardmore (Co. Waterford) and Rossadrehid (South Tipperary)

SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/98)

In summary, while some parts and aspects of Piltown are being carefully presented, others lack order and consistency. Coming from Mullinavat we were initially impressed by the expansive well mown verges as we passed Kildalton College, to be disappointed a little closer to the town where merely recently cut verges had exposed a substantial amount of litter (the same location as noted at the end of June!). Weeding along the base of the walls would enhance the Waterford approach considerably. Also, attention to such details as the weedy frontage of the community centre which contrasts with the well kept grounds within. The Limerick road had the most consistent appearance. On the whole the buildings along the street and within their own grounds were fine but it was the profusion of planting which caught the eye.