

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BRIDGETOWN**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 01-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	28	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	21
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>175</b>

## **Bridgetown, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Bridgetown is a pleasant mixture of both old and new. On approaching the village from O'Briensbridge, one comes across the village unexpectedly emerging from behind lush vegetation. The first view of the village is one of an old building with fine old stone work. This is complemented within the village itself with other old buildings, such as the creamery, the school and others. However, the number of more modern buildings and, in particular, the planned new housing development, places Bridgetown firmly in the twenty-first century. The gentle rise and fall of its streetscape together with its backdrop of hills and approach roads with lush vegetation combine to give Bridgetown a natural charm. Thank you for the completed questionnaire. We look forward to many repeat visits to your village. Do send in details of work accomplished each year for adjudication. A lot of work has been achieved with few workers. No doubt the new housing development will bring an influx of population into the village and hopefully the size of the workforce will increase.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

As noted above, the village is a pleasant mix of old and new buildings. Hopefully the design of the new housing development and building materials used will be sensitive to the natural charm and beauty of the village and surrounding countryside. This is very important as the planned development is located in the heart of the village. Do try to have plastic signage eliminated altogether from buildings as it is quite dated now at this stage and does not look attractive. Some outbuildings need to be freshly whitewashed. The group of buildings located on the river bank which comprise the Bar and Grocery and Petrol Station are all nicely painted. A few buildings need attention to their roofs, e.g. a slate roof across from the church and a number of corrugated roofs. The church boundary wall is also in need of attention.

### **LANDSCAPING**

This is your strong point in the competition. The vast expanses of well maintained grassed areas and simple presentations of flower displays are a surprising and very visually pleasing element of the village. Do ensure that all plants, shrubs and trees etc., planted in the future are indigenous species. There are some excellent guidelines on this in the Tidy Towns Handbook. The stone work at the entrance to the village and the new well are attractive features. Perhaps some flowering shrubs might be planted in the burial grounds to give a softer effect. Trees and shrubs on the high banks across from the graveyard are maturing well. The riverside development looks well.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The wildflower displays on your approach roads are particularly beautiful. As noted above, any future planting should consist of indigenous species which will be a natural link in the food chain for local wildlife. Perhaps a wildlife survey could be undertaken in conjunction with the school and steps taken to ensure that your wildlife heritage is protected in the face of the substantial new developments planned for your village.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was quite good. A small lapse was noted near the entrance to the existing housing development. More thought will have to be given to litter control with the planned new development of sixteen residential properties in the centre of the village. This will no doubt require new litter control measures to be undertaken and the provision of additional litter bins.

## **TIDINESS**

The village has an overall appearance of tidiness, however the small laneway beside the school is grossly overgrown and looks somewhat untidy. Outhouses with poor roofs and in need of whitewashing add an air of untidiness, however the overall performance is good under this heading.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Most residential properties are very well presented together with their green areas and side areas. Hopefully the new housing development in the village centre will be finished to the highest standard and all traces of building materials removed upon completion.

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

Some stretches of footpath need to be resurfaced, especially along the main road. The service poles around the village are quite numerous and when service cables are ducted and these poles removed, it should make a significant contribution to the visual enhancement of the village. Signage is good and the name plates look particularly well.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression of Bridgetown is extremely favourable.