

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 01-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>189</b>

## **O'Briensbridge, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Situated on both the banks of the Shannon and the old canal and having the hills as a backdrop, O'Briensbridge enjoys a superb setting in both visual and recreational amenity terms. Thank you for the completion of your entry form and for the copy of your three-year plan. The work when completed will enhance the villagescape even further.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The view of the main street of the village on approaching O'Briensbridge from the bridge over the Shannon is very pleasant and would entice the travelling public to spend some time in your village. The proposed improvements for the street in terms of paving, removal of overhead wires etc., are noted and are welcome. Do encourage people to pay as much attention to their side and rear areas as to the front of their properties. When the undeveloped site is developed, this should enhance the integrity of the streetscape further. The majority of properties looked particularly well, the Village Bistro, the A. O'Conlain, the Old Mill and the Ryan Darby in particular. A number of properties have yet to be repainted. Hopefully this will be accomplished for next year.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Do try to ensure that species chosen are native rather than ornamental. This is more important for a village like O'Briensbridge which is located on the banks of our major river than it might be for towns elsewhere in the country. The Tidy Towns Handbook contains excellent advice and guidelines on choosing native species and the importance of these. Many grassed area need to be reseeded, particularly those around the new sculpture piece.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The sign for the wildlife sanctuary was noted and is a good idea. The wildlife theme chosen for your new sculpture piece is wholly appropriate. Well done. Not all of the shrubs on the riverbank near the wildlife sign are appropriate for a wildlife area, these include the Cordyline and the ornamental shrubs. Perhaps a survey of the wildlife in the immediate environs of the village might now be undertaken as a suitable project. The new handbook gives some excellent information and advice under this heading.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was quite good in the village itself but some

rubbish was noted at the water's edge. There was very little litter to be seen during adjudication. The litter bins themselves could have been presented to a higher standard and perhaps more could be provided to cater for busy summer days in the village.

## **TIDINESS**

The overall appearance of O'Briensbridge during adjudication was one of neatness and tidiness, however some specific areas didn't stand up to close inspection. For example, the edge of the river featured a lot of dead growth and some rubbish. Another problem under this heading was weeds which had been sprayed and had not been removed. These look so unsightly when they are dead. A number of side areas were underdeveloped and featured some building materials. Hopefully this indicates work in progress rather than the vestiges of the work of previous years.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

O'Briensbridge has a pleasant mix of both modern two storey residential properties as well as single storey cottage type dwellings. The terrace of cottages between Bonners and the Post Office could be painted to good effect. Perhaps a co-ordinated colour scheme here would be appropriate. Boundary walls to residential properties marking the entrance from the Limerick Road were in need of attention and could be better presented.

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

It is good to note that you are working with the ESB, Telecom Eireann and the Local Authority to have overhead service cables ducted and lighting provided on attractive lampstandards. This will make a visual improvement to your streetscapes. New stretches of footpath have been noted and admired together with new paved areas. However, other quite extensive stretches of footpath are still in need of refurbishment together with roadside edges. Work had not been one hundred percent completed on the paved area around the sculpture piece on adjudication day. No doubt this will have been remedied by the time the committee is reading this report. Side and back areas to buildings are important when seen from the public realm. Do encourage people to either keep these tidy or screen them with solid gates.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall experience of O'Briensbridge is very favourable for the travelling public and no doubt for residents and visitors. The committee are to be congratulated on the work achieved to date.