

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	32	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	231	230

Bennettsbridge, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Over the years there has been a steady improvement in the presentation of Bennettsbridge. The importance of good planning is well known to your committee, as is the need to involve public bodies and other groups to strive towards your goals. Planning now for the next five years will enable your committee to review the situation and set appropriate new targets.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The bridge itself is the obvious main feature of the built environment. This is a great asset and well used in many emblems including tidy towns notepaper. The church and community hall are well presented. The walls of the church are becoming stained. This may be alleviated by a pressure house or finding the source of the staining at the top of the wall. The school is well presented and due to its structure will require little maintenance. Meighans, the Corner Bar and the Pottery shop look specially well as does the Larkin office. There is a good standard among the business premises. The signs at the craft centre are a little less than expected for the design talents therein. The paving from the back of the community centre to Woodview has recently been completed. The new houses beside the school are causing some disruption and attention should be given to ensure the paving is reinstated when the work is complete. The old Garda barracks is an interesting building and offers great restoration potential.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping on the Wexford road is very attractively done and well maintained. Around the Avonmore creamery the shrubberies are attractive and give a lovely entrance to the town. The little café, not in use, has a very interesting little garden. The many large chestnut and lime trees are a wonderful asset to the town. These are mainly mature – as are the chestnuts on the road to Mosses. The renewal and replacement planting is very important and it is wise that you have planted so many trees around the town. The planting outside the wall of the GAA grounds is a little weak. Besides more tree planting needed, a planting of ivy at the wall would eventually conceal the unsightly block wall. The greens, such as the ring green could also take more tree planting but it is looking well. The site between Woodlawn and the GAA grounds seems to have more potential than its present use. Container planting is attractive and the particular choice of container used is a lovely choice. The large ash tree beside the butchers premises gives a nice touch.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Some interesting project relating to the river banks should be developed. There are tremendous opportunities. Can a riverside walk be made close to the bridge? It would be a very good idea if it could. At present there is a passage to view the bridge opposite the Corner Bar but this is not completely suitable.

LITTER CONTROL

While efforts are being made to control litter well, unfortunately a number of litter items were noted in many places including the car park and road front at the grotto. Some litter on the old section of road by Avonmore was noticeable.

TIDINESS

There is a tidy appearance. The car park at the school is untidy due to the building developments. This is only temporary. The car park at Mosses is not very attractive and possibly planting islands would give a more tidy appearance. The site on the corner opposite the Corner Bar by the river could be improved.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are a number of well kept residential estates. Woodlawn is very well cared for and the ring estate. Hillview and Norewood likewise. At the end of Norewood the new houses are not served properly with road surfaces or attention to greens. Whatever the reason for this - alertness is always needed when new building is taking place that the work is not complete until all services are provided and any disruption is reinstated. Individual homes and gardens play a very significant role in the overall landscape of a town and this is very true in Bennettsbridge. The containers are well cared for and nicely planted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There is a good standard of surface on the main roads as mentioned. Road surface on new housing above.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Bennettsbridge has developed very well. The trees, stone buildings and bridge give it character. The planting of new trees is impressive.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/99)

The achievement is so great that mention of discrepancies must only be taken as passing comment. While generally observing Bennettsbridge over the years, it becomes more and more obvious that the old church should have been enlarged rather than demolished; it is a strange comment on our society that the several very new commercial premises in the village respect the built environment better than the church. It is splendid to see such

neatness in streets and residential areas, and such prosperity.
Congratulations to the Tidy Towns Association and all the people.