

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BRUREE**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>214</b>

## **Bruree, County Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the completed questionnaire, work plan and descriptive map and history of the village. The Village has a number of natural features, which give it a very appealing look especially as you approach from Rourke's Cross. The relationship built up between the committee and statutory bodies has proved very fruitful over the years. The support of local residents must be very encouraging for the committee as it strives to achieve progress in the competition. Indeed it is very hard to achieve the level of voluntary effort that Bruree has succeeded in doing. Long may it continue. Efforts to promote Bruree as a tourist destination within the Ballyhoura area are welcomed as it has a number of very worthwhile and historical attractions.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The presentation of both commercial and private premises was very good. A number of new houses have been built since this adjudicator last visited the village; these have blended in well with existing architecture which is typical of a rural Irish village. The De Valera Museum and Old Mill were very well maintained. In actual fact that whole area has matured significantly in the last number of years. The School and grounds are a credit. Those responsible for their upkeep and indeed the children have to be commended for keeping the place litter free. It would be unfair to single out any premises for special mention, suffice to say that all looked very well. Compared to other towns and villages the dereliction problems are minute but it is important to keep the message of encouragement to the forefront.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The standard under this particular section was exceptionally good with a perfect mix of trees, shrubs and flowers visible especially on the Kilmallock Road and around the river bank. Reference was made to the lack of window boxes in the village. Personally I did not feel that this was of any great significance. Window boxes are attractive and add colour to a place but they need constant maintenance and if they are not kept well can look shabby; flowers of the hardy and half-hardy annual variety have a very limited lifespan. Proper selection and simplicity is the key. Do not overbeautify.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Riverbank is a haven for various species of wildlife and has been designated as such. I would suggest that you bring forward your plans to erect descriptive information boards

that's if finance allows. Maybe Golden Vale would agree to sponsor this initiative. The Charleville road area out by Cuan Mhuire is another natural wildlife habitat that should be highlighted.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Encouraging the concept of a litter free environment is very important especially for the younger generation. The School competition is very imaginative and will no doubt have positive results. There was very little litter to be seen on adjudication day. Keep up the excellent work.

### **TIDINESS**

Overall this sector was very satisfactory with the exception of a few minor aberrations. The committee has noted the fact that all residents are circulated with copies of the tidy towns report so this should have a positive effect. I have to mention that the corrugated sheds on the Charleville Road could be tidied up. The village is extremely neat but something like this stands out as a wee bit of an eyesore.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The cottages opposite the De Valera museum are very well maintained. DeValera Park is a credit to the residents. One or two houses need to be painted and brightened up. The core of the village has a nice mix of housing styles most which are kept very well. Boundary walls, perimeter fencing and back areas in general are in good condition.

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

The approach from Kilmallock has a few notable features as you enter the village especially the School and Garda Station. The road out to the De Valera homestead (Athlacca Road) needs to have the edges trimmed. The Charleville Road is well maintained, as is the connecting road from Rourkes Cross

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The efforts of the committee to involve all sections of the community are paying off handsomely. The village was looking at its best on adjudication day. Problem areas have been addressed over the years and the community is to be commended for their efforts.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/99)**

The village of Bruree is one steeped in history both ancient and modern. It was pleasing to note that its unique heritage is appreciated by its residents. The Croom Road is an attractive

approach to the village with its green space below before one travels over the bridge. The Post Office and Bertie's Bar were very fresh. The magnificent hanging baskets to the latter being particularly admired. Maloney's Butchers also had some attractive floral displays – and even a caravan to the top of the village displayed some magnificent hanging baskets! The relatively new ash trees were coming along well on approach roads. The magnificent whitewashed cottages opposite the De Valera Museum, one in particular with its traditional half door were greatly admired. The attractive permanent planting to the picnic area at the village side of the bridge looked marvellous. Projecting plastic signs should be discouraged and replaced with more traditional timber ones. Hogan's Foodstore appeared to be abandoned. This is unfortunate as it has an attractive old stepped gable and would benefit greatly from sensitive restoration. The village generally created a good impression on the day.