

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	23	24
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	24
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>191</b>

## **O'Brien's Bridge, County Clare.**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for well completed entry form, three year plan and maps showing areas of development. This information was of great assistance to the adjudicator on the day. It is good to see that there is a committee of 12 people on the tidy towns committee in O'Brien's Bridge and that co-operation is sought from and given by Clare County Council, Shannon Development FAS and the ESB. The work undertaken during the last year as outlined on the Entry form is impressive and the impact of this work was in evidence in the village.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Business premises throughout the village are mostly well maintained including the Post Office and Shannon Cottage B & B. However, shop proprietors with plastic signs which are inappropriate to such a village should be encouraged to replace these. Also PVC windows and doors are inappropriate.

### **LANDSCAPING**

As the village borders the River Shannon there is a broad canvas to work upon. The Tidy Towns committee have taken cognisance of this and have to date optimised the potential of the river and its surrounds. The paved picnic area incorporating new lantern type lighting, picnic tables, pump feature, area display map, telephone box and appropriate wood covered litter bins together with the really unique water feature is impressive. However, the pathway to the right of the bridge is rather rough in places and weedkiller was applied here without taking up the weeds first, thereby leaving a brown unsightly area. At the end of the developed path, the continuing pathway by the river is rather overgrown. Near the farthest seat on this path there is a holder for a sign ? perhaps which is very rusty and unsightly and should be refurbished or removed. On the green area here there is good shrub planting at the end of the housing estate bordering the green. In the village street, the nice wooden seats and picnic tables outside Bonners are attractive. However, it would be better to replace the artificial flowers in the hanging baskets with fresh flowers. The area to the left of the bridge is also attractive with well kept tennis court and adjacent green area with nice planting near boathouse on river bank. Private houses are contributing to the Tidy Towns effort and the house next to the Scarpaflow B & B has made a special effort. Stone work in walls throughout the village was admired. It was good to see a person working in the garden at the Grotto on the day of adjudication

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The river and developed green areas contribute in this category. A considerable amount of wildlife was in evidence including ducks and swans and a number of people were fishing from the bridge.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was little evidence of litter throughout the village and it was noted in your plan for the year 2000 that the replacement of litter bins is a priority. The wood covered litter bins are appropriate. However, the one situated near the tennis courts had no actual receptacle in it – people were using it as if there was and obviously it would be difficult to empty. There was a considerable amount of rubbish and debris in the river during adjudication and a major clean up will be needed in this regard. Bonner's on the street have provided a litter bin and are to be commended. There were also two plastic wheelie bins adjacent to this premises and whilst one may have been put out for collection the other appeared permanent with a sign on it saying "for paper only". It is good to see a recognition of litter control but the two wheelie bins are rather obtrusive and perhaps this whole area could be looked at again perhaps investigating the overall recycling needs of the village.

## **TIDINESS**

The village was mostly weedfree and tidy throughout. However, as mentioned above, weedkiller should not be applied without removing weeds first. This was very evident on riverside pathway and beside the tennis court.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Private houses in the village and on the approach roads are mostly contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. However, house owners should be encouraged not to use PVC windows and doors (especially the silver variety). Two new houses are being built in the village and hopefully will contribute fully and become involved in your work.

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

In three areas, on the road to the Falls of Doonass, down by the tennis court and on the road past the Shannon Cottage B & B the surface is compacted clay which has broken up into pot holes and we note from your plan that you intend to address these areas in the future. Signage is mostly good throughout the village and the signs "Welcome to O'Brien's Bridge" are worthwhile. All back entrances/passageways, gates and walls should receive attention if needed.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A village that has progressed considerably in the last few years and has potential to continue to improve and do well in this Competition. The task is to motivate all the community to make a special effort in the future.