

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BRUFF**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	227	227

Bruff, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for submitting details of work programme and town map outlining area of development. You have a large area to cover relevant to your population and you will need the full co-operation of the community and the various organisations to tackle the many problems of private and public ownership. You have done well to maintain your standards but much of previous year's work is now in need of improved maintenance.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

You have some excellent buildings of great character and design. Alas, some of these are now in a declining state of preservation and will need attention soon to prevent further deterioration. In particular, the traditional shop fronts, for which Bruff is renowned, now need improvement. Some are likely to be lost if they are not restored soon. The former Garda Station Building is unique and deserving of restoration. As a committee you should find out the intentions of the O.P.W. in this respect. No progress on the presentation of the Church of Ireland Church. The parish church on the approach from Limerick is very well presented and landscaped to a high degree. The attractive shopfronts mentioned last year look well again this year.

LANDSCAPING

You have scored well in this section and much grass cutting was observed on adjudication day. The Morning Star River side park is excellent and provides a valuable amenity for the community. Also the park at the ring fort is excellent and well maintained. You are fortunate in having such an attractive river flowing through the town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You could do more to highlight the wildlife attractions of the area. You have ample opportunity to promote the wildlife aspect of the town. You should organise a survey of the common wildlife with some of the transitional school classes and perhaps this might lead to a small wildlife trail or the erection of illustrated display boards in the parks.

LITTER CONTROL

The town was almost litter free on adjudication day. The main street in particular was free of litter on a Tuesday adjudication day. This is your credit and your task now is to maintain the litter free status you have achieved.

TIDINESS

Your problems here relate to poorly presented buildings and badly kept side and back streets. Derelict and unoccupied premises lead to untidiness and this is why you need to liaise with the local authorities regarding dereliction in the town, as they can apply the necessary legislation to deal with derelict houses. Weed control throughout was good and kerbing was for the most part well presented.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The road surface at Sycamore Drive is poor and in need of attention. Some houses here would benefit from painting and improved presentation. The green area was fair, but could be improved. Ideally, this should be done by the residents in an organised way. The houses opposite the Library are well presented and add valuable colour to this area. The main street is really in need of a painting blitz and you should consider a painting scheme that would find favour with the residents and business people in advance of carrying out any work.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In general, the approach roads are very good. The Limerick and Kilmallock approaches are well presented and some good grass cutting was noticed on the entrance from the Water Tower. Main Street is particularly good with a high quality road surface. The G.A.A. entrance is now ready for re-painting and could, with ease, be improved with more planting. The area around the monument opposite the church is well presented and commands a focal point in the town.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You have maintained your standards and improved in some areas. Your biggest single problem may well be beyond the confines of a committee in terms of dealing with dereliction, but you can continue to highlight the problem and tackle the more obvious ones in the town centre. Well done on a good performance.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/00)

Bruff is an attractive town with a wealth of traditional shop fronts. Unfortunately, many of these were in bad repair on the day, giving the town a rather neglected air. The neatly cut verges on the Limerick side of the town looked well and indeed the standard throughout the town in terms of landscaping was extremely good. The Morning Star and Ring Fort Parks looked quite magnificent. Although the railings to the steps appeared quite flaky and some papers

and polystyrene slabs were noted in the river of this latter location. The attractive murals to gable walls throughout the town looked well. In terms of traditional fronts, one that would benefit greatly from restoration to its former glory is the unusual cast iron one that is Quilty's. The numerous construction sites give the Main Street a rather gap toothed appearance – do remember to provide hoardings to the front as, at the moment, in their open state, they are quite dangerous. The attractive terrace of houses by the riverside was greatly admired, although it should be painted up before next year's competition. Your problems in relation to the old Garda Station and Church of Ireland were noted – good luck with your future endeavours in this regard. At the moment these two buildings look most unfortunate in their prominent locations. Directional signs at the centre of the town needed to be washed and one or two shop fronts were badly in need of a fresh coat of paint. The pavements were not in good condition, in particular by the old Garda Station and the Church of Ireland. The Community Centre opposite the Ring Fort Park is in very bad condition and its windows have been boarded up. Bruff is an attractive town which has continued to improve over the years. Attention will need to be paid to the built environment, in particular, before next year's competition.