

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2000

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2000 | Mark Awarded 1999 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 36 | 34 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 31 | 31 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 34 | 33 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 22 | 22 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 29 | 29 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 12 | 11 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 21 | 21 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 32 | 32 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 224 | 220 |

Bruree County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Bruree Tidy Towns Work Plan was very much appreciated and provides a useful guide for current and planned developments. It is positive in outlook and recent years have witnessed a great deal of activity aimed at improving the appearance of the village. You are fortunate in having had the support of Fás and the great deal of landscaping in particular is due to the Fás involvement. Your challenge now is to maintain the standard required to ensure a high degree of maintenance. The river Maigue is a dominant feature in the village and offers you endless possibility for further enhancement. Indeed, you may now have reached the maximum requirement with landscaping and your efforts should now be directed to improving the streetscape and the many fine buildings throughout the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The mix of small, medium and large buildings blends in well in the overall context.. The long established buildings i.e. Church and Old School are well presented, together with the current national school. You have the odd poorly presented building and these are pretty obvious to the visitors and local, you should concentrate on tackling this problem in the years ahead. Teach de Valera though outside the village is in need of painting. You should contact the O.P.W. on this.

LANDSCAPING

As mentioned, you have a great deal of landscaping and this puts pressure on maintenance. The lengthy landscaped river bank area across the river from the mill provides an excellent introduction to the town. There was a welcome display of colour throughout, and credit is due to the collective and individual efforts required to achieve this high standard. A good display of window boxes adds further embellishment. Many landscape developments are supported by stone walls, built in the traditional way.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have every opportunity to score well in this section and the lengthy riverbanks offer great scope for highlighting the plethora of wildlife. You need to interpret the type of wildlife to be seen locally.

LITTER CONTROL

You have scored well in this section and the village did not have a litter problem on adjudication day. This is commendable as many centres have serious litter problems.

TIDINESS

Problems here relate to weed growth in the gutters and poorly presented open spaces. Development work currently underway can cause untidiness in the short-term.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual effort is profound in this section and great credit is due to those who put so much effort into creating attractive houses and gardens. You mentioned bilingual signs in your work programme, but these were not in evidence on adjudication day. Long-term, the placing of cables underground would have a dramatic effect on the village and you should pursue your intentions in this regard. The single storey row of cottages leading to the Kilmallock road are excellent, many with attractive hanging baskets.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Valuable marks are now available for well presented side and back streets. In general, these were well presented, but because of the layout of the village, many lanes and back areas are quite visible from the passing traffic; so extra effort may be needed to keep your standard high.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It was a treat to visit Bruree on a fine July day and witness a lot of work being carried out. You are endowed with some fine natural and manmade features. Your challenge now is to ensure that new developments do not disturb the rural ethos of this historic village and at the same time keep pace with 21st century requirements in terms of car parking and services. Good luck in your pursuits.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/00)

The attractive village of Bruree was as well maintained as ever on second adjudication day. An attractive cottage garden on the Limerick Road was admired – this is an attractive approach via the river, so that the visitor may appreciate its landscaped banks. As stated by the first adjudicator, this is an aspect of the competition which has been well handled within the village. Now it is time to maintain existing landscaped areas and transfer attention to the other categories of the competition. The adjudicator was pleased to note a new park on the Charleville Road

since last visiting the village. The attractive landscaped area to DeValera Park with its nasturtiums was greatly admired. The road surfaces throughout the village were not in good condition and hopefully this will be improved upon in the coming year. Hayes Brothers, it was noted, is for sale and hopefully this will be developed in the not too distant future. Litter control was a problem on the day along the main streets and in particular outside the church along the Charleville Road. Fly posting is a practice which should be discouraged. By and large, despite these comments the village was well maintained on the day.