

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Bruree** Ref: **445**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **247**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>247</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Bruree is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. Thank you for your comprehensive work plan and well executed map of the village. Your committee of ten is obviously working well with the local community, and the support received from Limerick County Council, Ballyhoura Development and FAS is noted.

### **The Built Environment:**

Much redevelopment has been undertaken in the village since last year, and there is still quite an amount of construction work underway. Several of the public buildings in the village looked well, but I must mention the Church, beautifully maintained grounds, with new access ramp. And whoever is responsible for the maintaining the interior of the church must be complimented on their efforts. The National School, De Valera Museum & Bruree Heritage Centre, including the new stone wells; Post Office and Beech Lodge Nursing Home were all well presented. The De Valera cottage and gardens was attractively presented, in keeping with its time in history. Bruree Mill, with its new roof, looked well, but the buildings at the back of the mill are in poor shape. The old Health Centre looked well, but the parking area needs attention, and the Community Centre is weather stained. The pavement and walls around the old Maigue Hall are in need of repair. Many of the business premises presented well, including Cannon's Food Store; Central Bar; Ray Moloney's; John Moloney's, and the entrance and buildings at Cuan Mhuire on the outskirts of the village was quite striking. Have you any plans for redeveloping Ballynoe Church, which is in a very poor state of repair. We wish you success in your ongoing discussions with ESB and Telecom.

### **Landscaping:**

There are many fine landscaped features in the village, including the rose beds and Oak trees at the National School; the planting opposite the garage; the lavender, hebe, spirea, berginia and complemented by summer

bedding at Church, the planting by the Credit Union and adjoining house, and Nursing Home. The oak trees on the N20 approach are maturing well, as are the trees planted opposite the school, but the wire fence is unsightly. The stone wall feature, with steps and tree planting in De Valera Park links the old and new houses very well. The landscaping by the four new houses on the Charleville Road needs weeding and tidying. Some of the houses in St Munchin's Terrace had lovely floral displays, as did Briar Cottage, and many of the private dwellings about the village had enhanced their homes with lovely window boxes, planters, and wonderful displays of roses, perennials and summer bedding. Well done to all concerned.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Bruree is fortunate to have the River Maigue and falls flowing through the village, with its resident ducks, herons and kingfisher, but unfortunately they weren't at home as the adjudicator enjoyed a few minutes rest in your lovely Riverside Park. Noted that you have made progress on the plans for the Wildlife Information Board, and hope to have it in place later this year. Some tree felling had been undertaken in the wooded area on the Charleville road – are there plans for this area with its remaining fine specimen trees?

#### **Litter Control:**

A variety of litter was noted in the picnic area on the N20 approach, and the culprits seemed to be the local crow family who had removed the litter from the open topped litter bin, which can be resolved by the replacement with a covered bin. Some other litter was noted on the approach roads, about Ballynoe Churchyard, in Riverside Park, De Valera Park and by the landscaped parking areas. You have several pink litter bins, and please encourage the use of same, and continue with your weekly clean ups.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is a new category for 2006, and your committee needs to study the Race Against Waste booklet which gives information on composting, recycling clothes and the schools Green Flag, etc. You already have a bring bank, in its new location, so some waste is being recycled. The bring bank containers were clean, but maintenance of the surrounding area could be improved if the containers were on a concrete base. You may also get some useful information on this category from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council.

#### **Tidiness:**

The village presented quite well in this category but there is still work to be done. The old telecoms premises and the surrounding area are untidy, and weed control by the pavement on the Kilmallock road was behind schedule. The litter bins could also do with cleaning or painting.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Generally the many housing areas, including St Munchin's Terrace, Golden Vale Drive and De Valera Park were maintained to a good standard. The Lisadeen and Gardenfields developments are still under construction. And there are many fine private dwellings on the approaches and at the centre of village, with as already mentioned, some with very attractive garden features. And it is noted that you have plans to for bi-lingual signs on the Estates.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The standard of the approach roads to the village was good; as was the signage except the sign on the Kilmallock approach which needs cleaning. The road surfaces and pavements were also in good condition. The yellow and white safety markings on the bridge need repainting. The sign for the Bruree Loop Walk is well positioned, but the Driving Route Map is in poor condition.

#### **General Impression:**

Bruree, with its fine history, birthplace of many famous people, is a fine village indeed. To stop at the parking area by the wildlife reserve, gives one a beautiful view of the village with its flowing river. Keep up the good work.