

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BRACKNAGH**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	20
The Built Environment	40	20	19
Landscaping	40	18	16
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	5	4
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>159</b>

## **Bracknagh Co. Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Work accomplished to date for Bracknagh has been worthwhile and the village is continually improving in its presentation. Thank you for the completed questionnaire and sketch map; these greatly facilitated adjudication. We look forward to your continued participation in the competition and to many repeat visits to your village. Some recommendations have been listed below under the various headings which you might like to incorporate into your work programme. Good luck for the future.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The farm outbuildings on the main road near the entrance to Beechwood Estate could be improved in their appearance by planting climbing plants to soften their impact if painting is not an option. The old schoolhouse is indeed a very handsome building with its clock feature and the church is presented to the highest standard also. Murphy's would look better without the plastic neon 'Guinness' and '7Up' signs. Beer companies now provide non-plastic, non-neon signage. The school looks really well having been recently painted. Well done on new kerbing at Bracknagh Cross. The new roof on the old building is a great improvement. Perhaps the railings at the old school can now be refurbished; they are in a very bad state of repair and are potentially attractive. The wire and post fencing inside the footpath leading out towards the residential developments could be planted to good effect. An Siopa has been recently painted and looks well. The completion of work in progress here is looked forward to.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The young trees on approach roads and in the village centre are maturing nicely and flowerbeds are colourful. Your efforts under this heading might focus more on permanent planting rather than bedding plants; these are less time consuming, less expensive and survive for longer. As the young trees on the Clonbullogue Road mature they will do much to soften the impact of the farm buildings here. Hedgerow along the Rathangan Road might be reinstated. The verge located across from An Siopa could feature a seasonal display of wildflowers or more formal planting.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

It is good to note that the committee is aware of the abundance of wildlife in the immediate environs of the village. It might be a good idea to do a survey of the wildlife and to highlight it as an important feature of village life. Could the undeveloped site in the centre of the village at the crossroads be developed as a wildlife garden until its future has been decided upon.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was quite good during adjudication. Well done. Your representations to the school children seem to have been

successful. The challenge now is to maintain this standard throughout the year.

### **TIDINESS**

The overall appearance of the village is one of tidiness, although some problems still exist under this heading. Do try to keep the bridge free of weed growth. Old looking building materials (e.g. a small pile of sand) were noted at the old farm buildings near the housing developments; these should be removed if no longer in use.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The overall standard of presentation under this heading is very good. However, a number of gable walls and side walls in St. Brochans Park could benefit from a fresh coat of paint. Kerbing in this development also needs to be painted; however, the central green is beautifully landscaped and the amenity feature in the centre is commendable. The overall presentation of this estate is very good.. Some boundary walls in the Beechwood development could be cleaned and/or painted.

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

A number of speed limit signs were in need of cleaning. Approach roads are reasonably well presented.

The wire and post fencing on the Clonbullogue Road would look better if planted with Beech and Hawthorn hedgerow. Well done on the work accomplished on the old pump.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A good overall presentation.