

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BROADFORD**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19
Landscaping	40	29
The Built Environment	40	29
Litter Control	40	31
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	200

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

From your detailed response to the questionnaire you would appear to have a good working relationship with the relevant local statutory bodies and a clear objective in terms of your ideas for the future of Broadford. For next year's competition it is important to have drawn up a detailed professional 3/5 year plan of action for your town in order to give yourselves a still clearer direction for tackling the problem areas within the community.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps the best way of approaching this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to get in touch with your local environmental body and consult them regarding this broad-ranging issue. Then, you can then identify the natural habitats of your area and see what species of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project - they will hopefully bring an enthusiasm to the appreciation for the wealth of wildlife in their locality. The adjudicator was disappointed to note that despite a thorough search, no trail map was located at the car park opposite the church. When instated it should provide a good insight into the features of the locality.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping to the area surrounding the Bridge House bar looked most attractive with the tall colourful lupins in stone bed to the front of the pub and the natural display of nasturtiums and pansies to the base of the hedge opposite should be delightful when in full bloom. As should the stone planted beds at the playing field forecourt. The riverbank area on the Abbeyfeale road was very overgrown and some papers were littering the water. The new trees to the green spaces on the Newcastle West road were admired, however the low wire fence surround to the second area could perhaps be removed. The bases of the trees along the Main Street were quite weedy. A possible solution to this problem would be to plant some flowers as this has proved to be a very successful solution in other towns. The grotto was presented in a beautifully simple manner, however, some weeds were visible popping up between the joints of the concrete paving slabs in addition to the lovely floral display which included an abundance of colourful beautifully scented sweet williams. The circular stone bed to the car park opposite the church looked quite bare and there was an unsightly pile of gravel/ sand dumped in one corner.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the public and commercial buildings of the town were in general presented to a high standard on adjudication day. The school looked well although the tower had yet to be painted, but its boundary wall needed a fresh coat of paint - the coping in particular. Perhaps some landscaping to the tarmacadamed playground would improve its rather bare appearance. The church and grounds looked both fresh and very well maintained in particular the railings, although there was some staining to the building and the car park area opposite was a bit weedy. The quaint Post Office looked very fresh with its most attractive handpainted sign. The old National school looked very fresh also. However, the gravelled forecourt was slightly weedy and the rusty barrel looked unsightly. The library was also very fresh but the boundary wall could be painted. Maloney's supermarket was extremely fresh with its colourful floral display of window boxes and plants for sale. Other premises noted for their freshness were the Old Forge Inn and the West End Food Store. The dairy looked quite fresh but could be painted before next years competition. Although the colourful window boxes with pansies and petunias to M. Riordan's were admired the projecting plastic signs were not and should be removed. All in all a good presentation.

LITTER CONTROL

Very little litter was apparent on adjudication day apart from some along the Newcastle West road and a single bottle outside the school.

TIDINESS

The major problem in this category was weed control. The forecourt areas were a particular problem as already established in previous categories. The gravelled area to the front of library and the forecourt area to an outbuilding with a tin roof on the Newcastle West road were both rather weedy. Some weeding is also required to the base of the kerbs at the junction of the Newcastle West road and Main Street and to the base of the school boundary wall. The messy yard area behind the petrol station with tractors and farm machinery on the Newcastle West road should be screened from public view.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of presentation of residential properties in Broadford was very good on adjudication day - a minor issue would be to concentrate on boundary walls. There were some attractive gardens on the Dromcollogher road. The thatched cottage complete with traditional half door is a very quaint feature and should be fully restored to its former glory. The houses and boundary walls along the Abbeyfeale road were reasonably fresh although some needed freshening up. John Paul terrace looked extremely fresh. The concrete block wall to the new bungalow will hopefully be plastered and painted before long. Two houses of special note were the very fresh house opposite O Suilleabhan's with its lush hanging baskets and the equally fresh house near the Church with a yellow boundary wall with green coping and magnificently maintained garden including clematis around the gate. Another immaculate garden was that with the natural feature of a low stone wall forming a partial boundary with flowers tumbling down to the roadside.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was a little inconsistent. The new trees on the Dromcollogher road were admired although some boundary walls needed attention adjacent to the school and weeds were apparent to the base of the road signage. The road was a little overgrown by the school and the children crossing sign was quite cracked. The Abbeyfeale road had a magnificent display of marigolds to a stone bed at the road sign and the potholes had been filled in. The Kanturk road is a very attractive approach through the glen with a steep drop to one side and sheer rock face to the other. It had reasonably well maintained verges and hedgerows containing wild foxgloves and daisies and another stone flowerbed surrounding the town name plate. The Newcastle West road sported a new nameplate and new stone base which had yet to fully bloom on the day. However the road surface was very potholed. The sign at the junction by the Bridge House bar should be freshened up by next year. The adjudicator was pleased to note the retention of the traditional telephone box which was quite fresh. The perspex door was unfortunately scratched.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The charming town of Broadford looked most attractive on adjudication day against the magnificent backdrop of the mountains (coming up Main Street from the Dromcollogher approach in particular). A terrific effort all around although attention should be given to the relatively minor issues raised in this report before next year's competition.