

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	204	200

Broadford, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for completed questionnaire complete with detailed map and a short but precise 3 year plan. The projects mentioned in the questionnaire will enhance what is already a very pleasant village. The Tidy Towns Committee have worked very hard at involving all sections of the local community. An excellent relationship has been forged with both Limerick County Council and West Limerick Resource Group; this type of partnership approach will benefit the village in years to come. The 3 year plan will help focus attention on the strengths and weaknesses of the village with tasks to be set accordingly.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the commercial and public buildings, with a few exceptions, looked very well on adjudication day. Most business people in the village have put in a big effort to have their premises looking well; some were refurbished and most were freshly painted. The Church and grounds were in excellent condition with the boundary railings painted. The School could do with a little improvement, while the grounds were in good condition the school walls and tower looked a little tatty and forlorn. I am sure that there are plans to paint it before the start of the next school year. Some landscaping to soften the rather bare look would be welcome. The Post Office was a very vibrant looking building with an attractive sign. The Old School or Community Hall which is a focal point in the village looked very well. The Library was in very good condition as was the Grotto which looked as if it had just been cleaned. The following business premises deserve mention for the standard of presentation achieved; The Old Forge, West End, Riordan's with its beautiful flower arrangements, Maloney's with its abundance of colourful flowers, and Foley's at the Bridge End. Some obtrusive plastic signage was evident on a number of buildings; it is time to consider alternatives.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping undertaken in and around the village was very effective. The area near the Bridge House was very well planted with a mixture of shrubs, perennials like lupins and nasturtiums which should be effective all year round. The colourful petunias at the Broadford sign were greatly admired. The banks of the river at the bridge were quite overgrown and it could become a litter blackspot if not cleared soon. The bases of trees along the main street were still quite weedy and need to be treated on a regular basis. The Grotto was very well presented in a landscaping context. The trees (mainly copper beeches) planted along the main street give the village more appeal and take away that bare look often associated with rural villages. There were some lovely colourful individual gardens in the village the owners of same are to be commended.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Good to see the initiative in relation to the provision of an arboretum at the quarry. The development of walking trails is also a very positive initiative as these are part of any natural amenity. The committee should, if it has not done so already, seek advice from a local environmentalist on how best to develop this sector in such a way that it will have a beneficial effect on the village and its community.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was practically litter free on adjudication day. The provision of extra bins is a major step in good litter management. The School Programme is also a welcome development; avail of the expertise of the County Litter Warden who may be in a position to give a talk to the school children.

TIDINESS

The overall appearance of the village was one of neatness and tidiness but there are some problems with weed control. Weeds were to be seen at the kerbside on Main Street and, as mentioned previously, at the base of trees that line the village. The untidy yard near the garage on the Newcastle West Road has not improved; the committee should encourage the owner to try and screen the area at least.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was really high and full marks to all residents of Broadford for such a concerted effort. The premises on the Drom Road had some very attractive gardens, similarly there were a number of houses on the Abbeyfeale Road that caught the eye (one in particular at the end of the terrace had a delightfully colourful garden). The terrace of houses as one leaves for Abbeyfeale (Marian) deserve special mention for the manner in which they were presented; beautiful gardens, meticulously mown lawns with lovely borders of colourful flowers. One was in the process of renovation and it was good to see that the original design was being retained. The thatched cottage was again noted for its quaintness but is it to be left to fall into dereliction?

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The appearance of approach roads to any village or town is of critical importance simply because they are really the first introduction to a place. The standard of approach roads into Broadford was quite good but there is always room for improvement. The Drom Road was in very good condition with recently planted trees developing nicely and some very attractive residences. The Freemount/Kanturk Road was also very well maintained with verges neatly cut, as was the road to Ballagh and Abbeyfeale. The sign referred to in last year's report on the Newcastlewest Road was freshened up and the overall standard of this road was also quite good.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Broadford looked extremely well on an adjudication day that was bright and sunny. The committee has worked extremely hard to embrace all sections of the community and advance the village's standing in the Tidy Towns Competition. A great effort has been put in to address and solve difficult problems in the village and one can see that this persistence is paying off as the village is looking better each year. Keep up the good work.