

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BROADFORD-KILDARE**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	33
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>205</b>

## **Broadford, County Kildare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the completed entry form which clearly states the objectives and actions of the Tidy Towns Committee. There is quite a large committee and this good level of support has been very effective in securing the treatment of the amenity spaces, as all spaces are looking very well. It is a pity that no three to five year plan has yet been submitted and this is the reason for the drop in marks. However, this is only temporary. As soon as it is submitted both the entry form and development plan can be assessed. The map was very helpful in highlighting areas for adjudication as Broadford is quite a long village which separates into these areas and Mill Race Lawns is outside the village precincts.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There is a very simple and pleasant rural setting to the village. The National School is fine with good colour selection and views over the fields opposite the school reinforce that rural setting. There are good stone walls that are well built in various parts of the village. Farrells newsagents was looking very well, however the white plinth at the bottom of their wall is inclined to get quite dirty from the mud of the pedestrian footway. Perhaps a darker colour would keep a tidier front. The stone buildings look very well after their renovation works though it is a pity vinyl windows are used as that changes the aesthetics of these buildings. Broadford House and the adjacent building looked very well with the hanging baskets however, the proximity of the car parking does place demands on its setting. It is noted that the red brick seems to be out of context with this village given that rendered walls, which have been painted, are the more traditional appearance. Old photographs of the village would indicate a more traditional finish.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Ballynacamee graveyard looks very well and acts as the beginning of the village from the national road. The trees on the entry road from the national primary are maturing well and the hedges have a good sense of mass. In fact, all hedges throughout the village are something that need the care and attention that they seem to be given, as these reflect the character of the village. The wooded area beside the church is very presentable and is currently being updated. The cupressus hedge enclosing the backdrop to this space must be questioned as this is quite an alien plant and in no way contributes to either the wildlife or the natural setting that this space. All the roses looked very well and these are particularly evident on the main Dublin Galway

road where not only was there a very vivid display of colour but an interesting walk was created through reading the name of each of the plants which was helpful and made the visit more interesting. The park bench is also a very good attraction for passing motorists. It is a pity that the County Council has been so insensitive about storing their gravel as the backdrop to this very fine floral display. It is noted that there is quite a lot of bindweed growing in some of the planters and this must absorb a lot of time and maintenance.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There is a good mix of grass management and this is effective beside the school where some set aside areas have been left for longer grass. This should be considered around the edges of the wooded area and as a replacement of the cupressus hedge. It is noted that the feeding station for the birds is a very effective visual item but its effectiveness in respect to wildlife, is not known. However, the preservation of the wood area is an excellent objective.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There are no real sources in this village and as such litter control is very good.

## **TIDINESS**

The high level of maintenance, successful litter control and general presentation make for a very tidy village and this reaches to the extent of the national primary road. In order to keep up to date with the extensive amount of works that are required to maintain such tidiness, perhaps management plans should be examined as to how the overall landscape could be more easily managed.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are a few single houses in the village, all of which have good gardens. Millrace is quite separate from the centre of the village but the new colours and very strong planting arrangements make for a very attractive display. The flowers in the urns were very effective in defining the boundaries of this space. Perhaps there are too many farm plants being used in many areas around the village and these seem to further separate the residential areas from the surrounding rural country side. The use of poplar trees has been very effective particularly on one of the entry roads.

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

Entry road from Dublin is very fine and the display of roses is very effective and a well known feature viewed by the

motorists using the national primary. The village must be complimented on upkeeping this feature. Perhaps it is within the village where there is a greater need to define the edges between the public road and the car parking areas. There is a sign pointing out the community alert area and this needs to be repainted. Again the poplars along the side of the road between Millrace and the centre of the village are a very strong visual effect, particularly with the well treated grass at their base.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Very pleasant village, very stretched out and needs a strong theme, perhaps not of colour but of rural plantings. It would seem that the brick associated with the new build sections is perhaps incongruous to the rural feel and perhaps this should be examined. The committee must be complimented for all the efforts that have gone into this presentation.