

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Brannockstown**

Ref: **59**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **206**

Category: **B**

Date: **03/07/2005**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 33 | 27 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 30 | 30 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 26 | 25 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 14 | 13 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 33 | 31 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 15 | 13 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 21 | 21 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 26 | 25 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 206 | 193 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

The five-year plan submitted with the entry form is very comprehensive and addresses a wide range of items very pertinent to the village. The map was very helpful at adjudication time and pinpointed each site along the roads of the village clearly. The large membership of 10 for a small village indicates that there is a very good community spirit present. This is also evident from the high level of maintenance observed through the village. Involvement with the school is an excellent idea as it helps to pass the appreciation of the natural environment to the next generation.

The Built Environment:

Stonewalls and stone gate piers are a wonderful feature of the village. The work of repair of these is particularly beneficial. The school is very well presented. The Baptist Church and Rose cottage are wonderful. The entrance to Harrisland estate is a lovely feature. Some stonewalls were painted at some stage – which is a pity as it is very difficult to remove paint - consequently the only practical solution is to repaint these. The number of protected buildings indicates the great value of those buildings. The two pumps and their surrounds are a nice addition to the village

Landscaping:

The most valuable part of the landscape of the village is the array of beautiful mature trees

bounding the roadsides. From the notes with the entry form it appears that some of these get cut down which is disturbing. All these trees were planted by previous generations who could never have hoped to see the beauty of these now. We owe a similar legacy to the next few generations and there needs to be a renewal tree planting programme in place.

The containerised plantings along through the village are very attractive and give an attractive summer sparkle to the village. These are well cared for. The many gardens of houses along the roadside look very well with richly planted gardens of all year round plants. A number of gardens are displaying beautiful roses flowing from their boundaries.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The work and studies in conjunction with the school is very worthwhile. The results of the ecological study planned in association with the school will make interesting reading. It was not possible to visit the pond area across the road from the school least it would cause a security issue.

Litter Control:

There is a very good level of litter control in the village. The community involvement is of great value and volunteer work is paying off very well.

Tidiness:

Walls and grass verges are meticulously maintained.

The village is particularly tidy with all walls, fences and hedge neatly kept. The two commercial yards would benefit from some style of screening although it must be acknowledged that the nature of work places is different from residential property.

Residential Areas:

The residential houses all along the roadsides are very well cared for and give a lovely impression on passing by. The small housing estate with black iron gates at each house makes an attractive sight. The new housing being built at present towards the Ballymore Eustace end of the village is causing a little disruption at the moment but this is only temporary and will hopefully be sorted out when the building is complete

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads are in good condition. The notes in the submission about heavy trucks using the roads and causing damage to the well-trimmed verges is regrettable and hopefully your efforts with the council will resolve this. The work of kerbing and intermittent cobblestone setting along the road by the school is attractive.

General Impression:

The mature trees lining the roadsides together with the stonewalls and well cared for grass verges all add up to form a beautiful setting for the village. The additional containerised plantings and well cared for gardens all combine to present a very attractive small village.