

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Broadford-Kildare**

Ref: **401**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **226**

Category: **B**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	226	224

Overall Developmental Approach:

The material submitted with the entry form helped greatly at adjudication time. The committee of 6 has been very busy during the year and the village looks very well cared for now. The planned work for the next five years could be spelled out a little better – this would be helpful for both yourselves and for the competition. The well-illustrated map of the village was also helpful in pinpointing the areas of activity. The Motorway development understandably has a huge impact on the village and when this is complete and the surrounding areas reinstated it will be possible to come to terms with the motorway.

The Built Environment:

The Church and school are prominent features of the linear style village and are both maintained to a very good standard. The cemetery on the hill looks a little isolated now due to the configuration of the motorway. The stonewalls surrounding the cemetery are attractive. The cemetery opposite the church is very well maintained and the entrance through the park is attractive. The buildings at the village centre look well presented – the post office would benefit from some attention to wall painting.

Landscaping:

There is a great amount of maintained grass verge on each side of the village. The care of this must involve a great amount of work and good credit is due for the high standard of maintenance to these verges. The tree planting along the roadside is now maturing well and reflects the surrounding countryside, which is very positive. In the centre of the village the tree planting is of the more ornamental trees – while these are fine, it is wise to concentrate on the larger broadleaved trees – such as Sycamore, Lime, Chestnut, Ash and Beech – a small number of these make a huge impact on the landscape. The gardens along the roadside beyond the church are very attractive and well cared for. Individual gardens look very well and these contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the village. The Broadford park grounds look very well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Good efforts are being made in the village to avail of the wildlife of the area. The schools project of the Broadford N.S Gearr Eiscir by 5th and 6th classes on the plants found in the area is a great collection of information and well illustrated – well done. The woodland walk by the side of the church is pleasant – the pebble surface is a little difficult to walk on and must certainly be difficult to push a baby buggy or wheel chair on. The bog walk projects sounds like a really interesting project. All the roadside hedgerows must contribute well as wildlife habitats and it is good to see such an amount of hedging in the village.

Litter Control:

There is a good level of care with litter. The recycle bins are in use but unfortunately people have also left some plastic sacks there. A little litter noted on the woodland walk. The weekly work of the residents is a great idea in reducing the litter.

Tidiness:

There is a good level of tidiness in the village. The roadworks are causing a lot of disruption at present and this is unhelpful to tidiness. This will be completed in the not too distant future and the village will settle down again. Each house, garden and surrounding road frontage can play a part in presenting a tidy appearance of a village

Residential Areas:

The houses are generally well cared for and a fair input is in evidence on looking around at the housing.. Millrace estate looks very well and makes a very good impression.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main village road is in good condition. Some attention to areas of road surfaces where they meet the roadsides at the village would be helpful. The hedgerows and grass verges along the roadsides are well cared for and these must take a huge amount of time to mow and care for. The Picnic areas are well cared for and are attractive.

General Impression:

Broadford is a tidy village where a great amount of effort is noticeable in the manner of upkeep present. The motorway is certainly making a big impact on the village and hopefully this will settle down again when the work is completed.

Second Round Adjudication:

It did not seem to this adjudicator that the motorway would affect Broadford adversely once construction work is completed because there does not appear to be an

exit that would bring additional traffic through the village. As a first time visitor to the village, this adjudicator was impressed by the very extensive tract of country which you have taken on – from the N4 to Millpond Cross – and all of it very neatly presented. In mid-August the roadside verges and grassed areas were as fresh as in the spring. The picnic areas were a model tidiness, and the graveyard opposite the church resembled a well-kept park – and an exceptionally pleasant and peaceful one too. Grasscutting was in progress on the date of the visit, and work was continuing to improve the shrubbery beside the inner gate to the cemetery – all of which was most encouraging. Your Landscaping mark is one of the highest in the county. As regards litter, some plastic bags had been dumped over the wall into the cemetery park. The recycling unit is clearly inadequate: an extra bin should be provided to you because the cans bin was overflowing. There were also some boxes of cans left on the wall: this is in fact illegal – a ridiculous law, for where can cans be put if sufficient bins are not made available? You should bring this to the attention of your Local Authority. Broadford has now entered the higher grade of the competition and therefore a second adjudication is accorded. Congratulations to this civic-minded community for their achievement to date.