

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Broadford** Ref: **62**
County: **Clare** Mark: **205**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	205

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form and sketch map of the village.

Unfortunately there was no work plan included and this is a pity as a plan allows one to have measurable benchmarks to work to.

The entry form did not indicate any great level of actual cooperation with other local community organisations or indeed the County Council.

I would urge you to consider inviting new members on board at your next AGM and then put together a work plan for 2007 that will have basic and achievable objectives.

It may be worthwhile seeking advice for Clare County Council Community and Enterprise Section

This might eventually lead to Broadford being considered for a Rural Regeneration Programme in the near future.

The Built Environment:

The Village suffers in that is that the road surfaces, with a few exceptions, are in very poor condition and this does not help the overall look of the place.

The standard of presentation of buildings is rather mixed and any committee is dependent on the cooperation and good will of local owners to keep premises up to scratch.

Getting people to address issues such as dereliction, and there are few obvious eyesores in the core of the village, is a delicate operation.

Public buildings such as the school and the church in its elevated position were well presented. The local GAA Club grounds and club house, in a focal point in the village, was also well presented with the surrounding parking area tidy.

A number of the existing commercial properties in the village could benefit from a paint make over that would

brighten the appearance of Broadford as a whole.

Plaudits to those individual householders that have presented their properties and surrounding areas to a high standard.

Landscaping:

Shrubs and perennial flowers whether used in conjunction with a combination of trees or on their own enhance a town or village greatly.

I note in the entry form that 20 trees are to be planted adjacent to the Eircom Building, this is not before time as that building is quite untidy looking as it stands.

The Committee should go a step further and consider asking the Horticultural Section of Clare County Council, to devise a simple but effective landscaping programme that would encompass all the village.

The individual householders, especially those on the Tulla Road and on the outskirts as one exits to Bodyke, deserve credit for the manner in which they have maintained their gardens.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Riverside Walk is big asset to the Community and it is also a haven for all species of wildlife that are associated with the area.

It was noted that some improvements have been made to the seats and map boards.

It would worthwhile considering getting the National School Children involved in a wildlife competition that would bring new ideas to the fore in this category.

It may be possible to enlist the help of a local wildlife enthusiast to give guidance in setting up such a competition.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control was acceptable and it is good to note that a few additional bins are being provided for the benefit of the public.

Again it is important to ensure that the younger generation become involved in the anti litter movement, this should be done in conjunction with the principal of the National School.

Waste Minimisation:

This is new category in this year's competition and is included in order to get communities active in the whole concept of race against waste.

The Committee has made a positive attempt to highlight the promotion of best practice.

This could further develop this next year by putting in place specific relevant projects such as a organising local volunteers to bring clippings etc to the nearest composter.

Do consult the Race Against Waste booklet for additional project ideas.

Tidiness:

The verges on the outskirts were a little untidy with twigs and grass growth visible.

The Eircom Building, already mentioned, and its immediate area was quite untidy and as this is in a central area it makes it all the more noticeable.

A number of untidy areas, notably one with broken wall and rusty JCB parts visible on the Kilbane Road, need to be cleaned up.

I appreciate that it is not that easy for a voluntary Committee of 8 to always influence individual householders – but a general message should be circulated via the Parish Newsletter to ask, tactfully of course, people to keep premises tidy and contribute to the effort of Tidy Towns.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category was good.

The existing housing development was well presented and the new housing development on the Sixmilebridge -Kilkishen Road is taking shape and maturing and will be an added bonus to the Village. As was stated in last years report it is important that any building residue be removed as promptly as possible and that surrounding areas be landscaped accordingly.

It is important that the Committee encourage residents to keep up the good work in maintaining the standard that already exists.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main entrances to the village were appealing especially the Tulla entrance which had a number of well appointed private dwellings.

The road and directional signs, while visual, are in need of cleaning and painting and this should be a priority. Unfortunately and as mentioned in a previous section the overall standard of roads into and within the village was not good.

The Committee should lobby its local council representatives to have these road surfaces re tarred and improved, this would greatly enhance the look of the village.

General Impression:

The Committee is encouraged to keep up its good work and try and enlist additional new people to come on board and share the workload.

New people bring new ideas that would help revitalise the sense of community in the village and its surrounds.

Broadford has potential and is situated in a naturally wooded area surrounded by a number of lakes that attract foreign fishing enthusiasts.

The village as a whole could exploit this to better advantage.

You are wished well in the competition in the years ahead.