

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Brosna** Ref: **276**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **210**
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	210

Overall Development Approach:

Brosna is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. The newly elected committee members are wished every success in their task of improving Brosna in the competition, we note you have made a good start in liaison with development agencies and your local County Council, we encourage you to continue your engagement with local schools. Brosna is an attractive village which enjoys a wonderful rural setting against a backdrop of wooded hills. The village is built on high ground in parts which affords excellent scenic views of the surrounding countryside and of the village itself, particularly from the elevated site of the school.

The Built Environment:

The school and its grounds are neatly presented and the church can be seen from a number of points on approach roads and within the village from the small housing estate from the crossroads. Well painted houses and shops line the road leading up the hill to the village square. The Sportsfield Bar, Sean Flynn's and the Post Office are all well presented. The church, the grotto and the graveyard and the Garda Station look well also and surround the Village Square.

Landscaping:

The entrance to the village square is marked by an attractive namestone however the square itself could be landscaped further and feature attractive lampstands and perhaps a water feature could be resurfaced also and car parking spaces marked out. Landscaping is suggested for the school grounds also which are hard surfaced. Planting at the entrance to the water treatment utility has been noted. The attractively landscaped roadside banks leading up to the school are spoiled with weed growth and long grass shooting up through the

protective cover. Flower containers were admired particularly the hanging baskets on the pole on top of the new stone walls at the crossroads.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As noted above Brosna is located close to woodland areas and this presents an opportunity to adopt a wildlife project, perhaps related to a local woodland area. A signposted nature trail might be considered or a woodland area could be rehabilitated under the Neighbourwood scheme which is 100% grant aided. The sports ground facility is well painted to its roadside boundary walls and club house and its entrance is attractive. The graveyard at the entrance from one approach road is not being neatly maintained and its weather stained boundary wall could be cleaned or painted.

Litter Control:

Litter control is quite good throughout the village however some was noted on the stretch of footpath located between the Post Office and the Woodview Bar. We note from your submission that you participate in the National Spring Clean and maintain street and road frontage. We wish you well with your plan to install more litter bins.

Waste Minimisation:

Your recycling point was noted outside the graveyard and was being maintained in a tidy manner. The adjudicator wonders if the bins are not located too close to the bend in the road for safety and if they might not be better relocated to the wall of the graveyard furthest away from the bend. To perform at a higher level under this heading it is necessary to explore ways of minimising the amount of waste produced by the community in addition to collecting for recycling. The Race Against Waste booklet included in this year's TidyTowns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

Tidiness:

Many forecourt areas and the wide footpath along the main street were very weedy and this suggests neglect, do encourage people to take responsibility for weed growth outside their own premises. A derelict premises (the old creamery) at the top of the road near the crossroads has considerable potential. Are there plans for redevelopment?

Residential Areas:

Many houses are nicely painted and on-street dwellings look quite well. New infill housing is attractive also. A nameplate is suggested for a new housing estate and work in progress was noted on a small estate near the top of the hill. Some boundary walls are weather stained and would benefit from cleaning and or painting and the same point can be made in respect of the large dwelling on the crossroads whose weather stained façade could also be cleaned or painted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your new stone walls at the crossroads were admired together with the poles and hanging baskets here. Further stretches of new stone walls across the bridge and on the road to the school are handsome features to Brosna also. The wide stretches of footpath and forecourt areas along the main street are urgently in need of resurfacing. Road surfaces throughout Brosna are not good overall. Roadside verges of approach roads had been left in their natural state on the day of adjudication, perhaps you might consider maintaining them neatly trimmed to the outer roadside edge and leaving the rest to grow naturally?

General Impression:

Brosna has the potential to do well in the competition but needs to have the problem of weed control and poor surfaces addressed first.