

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Batterstown** Ref: **574**
County: **Meath** Mark: **242**
Category: **A** Date(s): **11/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	242

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Batterstown to the 2006 Tidy Towns Competition. Based on your Entry Form you seem to have a very large Tidy Towns Committee together with good agency and local support and this is very encouraging. Your involvement with the school is critically important. Have you considered having two senior students on your Tidy Towns Committee as full members? Your Committee members have attended a number of relevant courses for Tidy Towns and this is a great way of picking up new ideas and skills that can be applied to Batterstown. Your Tidy Towns Plan now needs to be revised for the period 2007 – 2011. It is a good idea to identify the target projects for each year, their estimated cost any, and the potential supporting agencies. Your project graph was really interesting and you have indeed made commendable progress in the Tidy Towns Competition.

The Built Environment:

The village Pump area has been one of your big projects for tis year and it was looking very well on adjudication day. However the silver lettering here in the view of this adjudicator is out of place in a village environment and lettering using more traditional values would be more appropriate at this location. The Church with the new pillars and restored gates would be enhanced if the church railing was repainted using matt black. The GAA premise out on the Trim side of Batterstown was extremely neatly presented. Good landscaping caught the eye at the car sales premises. Congratulations to the school on a fine presentation with excellent presentation of the building using a very good colour scheme that is fully complimented by colourful landscaping. A nicely presented house opposite Londis stands out with the 18th century stabling to the side.

Landscaping:

The tree planting is a great investment in the future presentation of Batterstown. The landscaping that you have carried out on all approach roads with the exception of that to Maynooth, achieves a high standard and blends well with the naturally occurring mature trees and plants. The small area at the Dunshaughlin junction was especially colourful and beautifully presented. Another small landscaped area at the R.154 signage added additional interest to that part of the road.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife area on the Dunshaughlin road was visited and photographed. Have you any plans for a wildlife survey of the Batterstown area? The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to the Brannockstown area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year. Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be to draft a straight forward Plan for Brannockstown to preserve the identified habitats in the Brannockstown area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl. It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved. As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

The problem in regard to rubbish dumped in the village from passing cars has been noted and unfortunately there is no easy solution to that difficulty. Well done on the Brannockstown performance in the Meath County Litter League. On adjudication day litter control was found to be good, but on the Trim approach roads there was quite a lot of litter on the roadside verges. Make sure that any poles used for signs are painted. Likewise try and get the Local Authority to repaint the poles used for Speed Limit Signs.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the community that they support to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Brannockstown for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste, segregating litter during clean up events. Did the school get the Green School award?

Tidiness:

Can you make sure that any poles used for signs are painted? Likewise try and get the Local Authority to repaint the poles used for Speed Limit Signs. A narrow un-surfaced lane opposite Londis looked a little untidy and a gate just down the road needs to be painted

Residential Areas:

The estates were visited and the entrance name stones admired. The estates present to a high standard and excellent landscaping was noted. Watch out for weed growth where kerbs meet the road surface. One of the interesting aspects of the estates is how their entrance landscaping enhances that approach road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The two main approach roads were excellently presented and the sporting sculpture on the Trim side was admired. The green verges and older and younger trees and colourful planting create a great first impression of Brannockstown. However the Maynooth approach road needs a lot more work if it is to meet the standard set by the main approach roads.

General Impression:

Brannockstown is an attractive village with a sense of community. Do consider the issue of the lettering at the Village Pump project. Good luck with your 2007 projects.

