

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Brannockstown** Ref: **358**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **242**
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	242

Overall Development Approach:

Brannockstown is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your comprehensive submission and your detailed planned work programme. With a committee of ten elected members and sub-committee of five members together with volunteers as necessary from within the community Brannockstown is well poised for success within the competition. Your monthly and weekly meetings together with clean up days and planting days and fundraising events is indicative of the excellent community spirit within Brannockstown which is evident in the appearance of the village. Well done on the cooperation you receive from a variety of agencies and on your participation in the Tidy Towns seminar organised by Kildare County Council. It is good to note your liaison with the school board of management.

The Built Environment:

Both the school and the Baptist Church were presented to an excellent standard as in previous years. Well done on work completed for this year which includes the restoration of the two village pumps, additional curbing, the clearance of verges and the completion of the Sli na Slainte walk together with the starting of a Heritage Trail route. All of this is a fine achievement. Your proactive approach in having an input into the overall development and character of the village is admirable and well done on your success here also. We wish you every success in providing a focal point development for the village at the crossroads.

Landscaping:

A characteristic feature of Brannockstown is its neatly maintained hedgerow backed by maturing to mature trees with beautifully maintained grass roadside verges. Flower displays in containers and beds are colourful and make a positive visual impact. Ensure that future landscaping is native to encourage a diversity of wildlife

habitats.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Brannockstown has access to many areas of woodland and so is rich in a variety of wildlife habitats and species. Congratulations on gaining the permission of the landowner to traverse the estate and have access to the river, the use of this walk to introduce school children to the wide variety of flora and fauna is a fine achievement. No doubt it will continue to be used also for swimming, fishing and relaxing. We wish you well in your liaison with the local school to have it registered in the Green Schools Programme.

Litter Control:

The emphasis placed on litter awareness within the schools is effective in achieving a litter free status as the village was litter free on adjudication day. No doubt the activities of the FAS worker makes a significant contribution to this, together with the two village clean up days per year. Do keep us informed of the outcome of your decision not to provide litter bins. No doubt your litter is segregated for recycling purposes.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on the segregation of litter for recycling purposes and on the siting of a recycling scheme in the local school. Good luck with your efforts to have the recycling bins emptied at least twice per month. Well done on the sourcing of peat free compost. At some stage in the future you might consider conducting a waste audit to identify the volume of waste produced by the community and devise strategies to minimise it.

Tidiness:

Hopefully your contact with Eircom to remove the unsightly service wires in the village will bear fruit in the not too distant future and a similar outcome will be achieved for your close liaison with the pipe laying contractor. Well done also on the approaches to the owners of the two commercial yards in the village, these appear to have been taken on board to some extent, however perhaps solid gates would be the answer to provide greater enclosure. Your weed control programme appears to be effective.

Residential Areas:

While the cottages on the Kilcullen Road are charming a few boundary walls are in need of attention; grassed roadside areas to boundary walls on the Ballymore Eustace Road were admired. The Moorhill Wood development is attractive, green open spaces, young trees and attractive lamp standards were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Well done on the completion of stone wall renovation and curbing on the Naas Road together with the cobble lock curbing on the Kilcullen Road.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Brannockstown is most favourable. The village is not only beautifully presented but has retained its character and heritage, all that remains now is for its heritage to be highlighted to a greater degree with interpretative panels finger post signage etc.