

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Broadford** Ref: **62**
County: **Clare** Mark: **219**
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	219

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you, the Broadford Development Committee for your entry to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition.

Thanks to your Committee of six people, who take the time and effort to attend your monthly meetings in addition to your work on other TidyTowns events. Your Committee is doing very worthwhile work in this small and lovely village of Broadford of less than 1,000 population. The village has so much potential. This adjudicator appreciates your note that it is hard to get people involved and that people are slow to volunteer. A recommendation for your Committee is the preparation of a very basic three-year two page plan for Broadford to assist you in the development of Tidy Town targets and initiatives. Your three-year plan would be a new initiative for next year and would assist the Committee in forward planning and setting targets up to the end of 2011.

A recommendation is to attempt to start discussion and get support from the Local Authority and other Agencies and local organisations for the benefit of TidyTowns activities in Broadford. This is an important ingredient in the success of TidyTowns activities and could in itself be a specific target in your three-year plan. Your Communications strategy of the newsletter and direct contact with the school is good.

Thanks also for your Village Sketch Map, outlining key places of activity of TidyTowns.

I wish you all the best with your planned activities into the future. Keep up the good work.

The Built Environment:

One of the challenges facing Broadford is to maintain a healthy balance between the commercial demands and the leisure needs of the village. Some business people in Broadford are aware of the benefits of

TidyTowns activities and their business premises are a credit to their owners.

Some commercial and many residential areas looked very well on the day of my visit.

Premises that continue to look well include; the estate of white bungalows/cottages on the entrance from Limerick. The thatched cottages were splendid. The site looks so well. Some individual houses and cottages on the outskirts of the village were magnificent. The cottage, painted in magnolia and terracotta, was so well set out with the wonderful display of heathers in the garden. The white house close by also looked so well. The terrace of five houses opposite the local shop (no name on shop) are to be congratulated on their condition and on the display of hanging baskets and flower pots full of summer bloom. A lovely presentation.

The School, with its backdrop of magnificent riverside trees, looked well as did the Community Hall and the GAA grounds. The Church itself and the surrounding grounds and cemetery were well presented and in good condition.

However the Broadford Sport and Leisure Centre could do with some painting. The dumping of old bathroom furniture by the side of the premises is a negative.

The bridges are lovely features with hanging baskets setting off a lovely display on the stone parapets. The River walk is a lovely facility and credit to those concerned for its maintenance. Why spoil this wonderful amenity with rubbish? A number of black bags of rubbish were evident on the adjoining site. A pity.

The residential estates looked well as did some lovely individual houses around the village. Well done to all concerned.

One recommendation is to maintain the excellent presentation of all buildings by regular painting as required.

Landscaping:

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping. Individual residential estates were well presented. The floral displays throughout the village, in particular the hanging baskets were quite beautiful. The bridges are lovely features with hanging baskets setting off a lovely display on the stone parapets. The well-maintained lawns at the former RIC cottages looked well. Some nice landscaping on the exit road to Scarriff, nice planting and seating/rustic table. Well done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Riverside Walk area is a gem and looked well with the grass cut and litter free on the day of my visit. The Dogs notices are an advantage. Well done. This area needs to be protected as a wonderful facility for Broadford. The bilingual Interpretative Panels/ Notice Boards are an excellent facility.

Your plans to maintain the listed walks and to plant more native trees are to be admired. These are very worthwhile initiatives. The Riverside Walk is a treasure and some expert advice should be sought for the protection of existing birdlife and other species and the introduction of further birdlife.

The involvement of the school children in appropriate projects such as a Wildlife Interpretative Display is a project to be considered.

Litter Control:

The Village was not litter free on the day of my visit with dumping at the side of the Broadford Sport & Leisure Centre and at the site adjoining the Riverside Park, both could be avoided. The work of TidyTowns Committee is paying dividends in other locations of the Village and this is to be applauded. The role of the teachers and schoolchildren is so very important in maintaining a litter free village.

Waste Minimisation:

As pointed out in the previous report of 2007 this area requires further examination by the Committee.

One possible project is the involvement of the primary school in the Green Flag Project. Your plans to address these issues at the school and at public meetings are positive.

Tidiness:

Like many places Broadford has some derelict buildings and these take from the overall tidiness of this village with so much potential. Most houses and estates looked so very neat and tidy on the day of my visit. Well done. Your project of the clearing of the natural stone walls on the outskirts of the village is well worthwhile and will produce some excellent benefits.

Residential Areas:

As stated earlier premises that continue to look well include; the former "Rent an Irish Cottage" bungalows on the entrance from Limerick. The thatched cottages were splendid. The site looks so well. Some individual houses and cottages on the outskirts of the village were magnificent. The cottage, painted in magnolia and terracotta, was so well set out with the wonderful display of heathers in the garden. The white house close by also looked so well. The terrace of five houses opposite the local shop (no name on shop but Moloneys is probable name) are to be congratulated on their condition and on the display of hanging baskets and flower pots which are so full of summer bloom. A lovely presentation.

The new estate of detached houses on the hill overlooking also looked well and their display of summer gardens was nice.

Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The access roads, signposts and the tidy entrances were of benefit to all in Broadford. The organisation of clean-up days is to be congratulated. Well done

General Impression:

Broadford is a lovely village and has the potential to do even better. The adjudicators appreciate your comments about heavy traffic and resulting dirt and dust. It is not easy as you say and that is the challenge. Congratulations to all involved in your efforts to date.

Ongoing co-operation between the Local Authority and the TidyTowns Committee requires constant attention for the benefits of Broadford.

Congratulations on your 2008 entry to TidyTowns Competition and good luck for the future.