

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Broadford** Ref: **359**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **259**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>259</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Go raibh maith agaibh go leir! Thank you to Broadford TidyTowns and to the community you represent for having given selflessly of your time in working towards entering Broadford in this 50th anniversary year of the TidyTowns Competition!

Broadford is a small village with a large number of people involved on your committee. Well Done! This shows great enthusiasm for what you are about, and it is good to see that you are helped with particular projects. Your weekly litter walk around was noted taking place in wretched conditions in early July, but rain or no rain you emerged to pick any litter up. This is the type of dedication needed to make your village as attractive as possible both for residents and visitors.

We are glad that you have the assistance of FAS in your work. We also noted their sign at the park/graveyard. Are there other agencies that you could approach? Perhaps your local LEADER would be able to help you also?

Your local authority and local businesses are supporting you in various ways. We are glad to see that you have built up a good relationship with them.

Your communication systems appear to be comprehensive. We hope that your newsletter also extends to churches where probably a minority of residents attend church services.

You have a very good working relationship with your local school.

We would encourage you to continue to seek the excellent advice which is available to you from your local authority on many issues – be it Conservation, Heritage, Roads and Environmental issues.

However, we note that you do not appear to have submitted a TidyTowns action plan. To make substantial

progress in the competition a plan is required. A three or five year plan is recommended. A plan need not be prepared professionally. However, you should try to get the views of the community at large when preparing the plan and take into account other plans for the area such as Local Area Plans / County Development Plans prepared by the Local Authority under the Planning and Development Act 2000

### **The Built Environment:**

Broadford is a lovely village, linear in form.

The graveyard at the Ballinadrummy side looks interesting, and is enclosed by an old stone wall which may follow the old tearmainn boundary. It would be interesting if you could research some details about the graveyard in future years.

Your built heritage is a source of educational, amenity, and educational potential. This heritage is situated in its natural surrounds and has not been encroached upon. The church, which is an attractive building, is located at the focal point in the village. It is extremely well presented, and we note that you had a major project carried out in reproofing and cleaning the church in 2007. It is very good to see that such a pivotal building at the centre of the village is so well looked after. Its grounds are also impeccable. The church gate and stile gratings were much admired. They are appropriate to the building. The school is also a good building and representative of that period of national school building. It is very well maintained, and its gates also were admired. Small features like these in the built environment make a big difference when sensitively maintained. The parish centre is also well presented.

The street area has mostly good buildings, and some stone buildings including the old school with its good gates, but opposite the pub there are some buildings needing attention. The stone building has colourful gardens. The floral displays at the pub were admired. The substation is very well presented.

The stone signs were admired, especially those at the Millpond area. The stone sign at the recycling end was not yet engraved. We noted a pump inside the boundary at the depot. We assume it will get a home locally in due course.

The bins were in good condition. We were particularly impressed by your enterprising and amusing wooden sculpture in the picnic area close to the road. It is unusual, artistic, and clever!

The sculpture in the Eco Park is a very attractive modern design/old material feature. Whereas we understand the reason for the new church ground seating and planters, we would suggest that you do not use this design and material type in the village, as they are not in character with the village. Natural stone or well designed timber would be a good alternative. We admired the bog oak seat very much.

There is a good entrance at Garrisker with good entrance pillars.

The G.R. postbox beside the bridge at Millpond was noted.

We noted the "Tobair Coill" sign. We look forward to seeing more bilingual signage, and the use of Irish elsewhere perhaps.

### **Landscaping:**

Broadford is a village located in an unspoilt area. Despite its proximity to a main road, the village has really retained its rural ambience through the maintenance of trees, stone walls and hedgerows. The vegetation is native and unspoilt. The tree cover is of mainly native deciduous species. Maybe a Sli na Slainte route could be developed in the environs of Broadford.

Your own landscaping of the village area, especially in the area of the church, internal and external to its grounds, is very appropriate to the village. We are particularly impressed that you are not overusing the more urban landscape forms of baskets and tubs. You do not need these in such a natural setting. Well Done! The semi mature trees in green margins near the church at the entry to the village are very attractive. The approaches to the village are of mostly natural hedging boundaries. These are excellent. Your bulb planting programme is very good, and the Millpond area is very pretty.

The Eco Park and boundary areas of the church site are beautifully planted and landscaped, as is the park area in front of the graveyard opposite the church. The picnic site on the main road is attractive, and provides a welcome restful space in a green area to road users. The concrete floral containers in the park are not ideally suited to rural park. The gravel paths look well, but may not be suitable for wheelchair users. These

three areas are a big undertaking for a small community to look after. This is appreciated and acknowledged. The road frontage of the Eco Park is visually stunning. This adjudicator is putting this park forward as a candidate for a prize in "the most outstanding landscape project in a town or village" in the region. There is also a lovely cornfield opposite the Eco Park, which provides a nice contrast at this time of year. The poplars in the Garrisker area were admired.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The Eco park is a great asset for your wildlife work. You have provided an excellent habitat, and your work practices are in keeping with good practice.

The trees of the deciduous woodland and the hedgerows all around are also a wildlife habitat of great value and potential. We are delighted that you have organised the Eco audit, and understand why you were unable to complete it in time for this year's competition.

The rushy/marshy area on the Ballinadrummy approach, and the breen to the East at that point are also potential wildlife resources. (just north of the old school)

The provision of a survey and management plan contributes to the marks in this section. It is also recommended that you might consider erecting an interpretative panel, so do remember to endeavour to do this for 2009! Findings made public on information panels would add to the enjoyment of your village for local and visitors alike.

### **Litter Control:**

There was almost no litter on adjudication day. Your weekly litter pick ups are, as already mentioned, providing results. The recycling centre area was free of litter also. However it requires some softening, as the precast slabs forming the screen to the main road at the centre are not attractive. The signage is clear at the centre.

You could work towards litter control in association with the school in 2009. Do you participate in the Spring Clean event? Perhaps you could organise a Litter Seminar with the Litter Warden of your local authority.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

You are segregating litter and recycling. Do you know what per cent is recycled in the village? Well done on the composting initiatives.

Waste minimisation is about more than not having litter in your street. It involves the prevention of litter accumulation in the first case. It is really what it says – to minimise on waste production before we, as a community, private or public create it in the first case. You might refer to the Race Against Waste booklet available from the Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government. Consider organising or attending a Waste Minimisation Workshop with your local authority. In your local school there will be opportunities to involve the students in an effort to work towards this end.

Perhaps you might prepare a flyer/newsletter on this subject? As a local community you could look at some innovative and simple ideas such as organising a "Bring and Take Day". This would involve using a local hall / community centre for instance for a day - where everybody brings items they have no further use for, but which other people might want (and which under normal circumstances they might get rid of as waste) and puts them on display. The corollary is that somebody else needs these items. No monies change hands. Website versions of this idea have been set up in places also. Another group collected all broken crockery, and made a mosaic in their local area. You can gain marks by doing some of these things for 2009.

### **Tidiness:**

In general the village and its surroundings were very tidy. The main road approaches at the picnic area are in need of a tidy up, and this is a pity as the village itself off the main road performs excellently under this category. Lots of gravel and old road fill left to one side of the green area takes from the overall effect of a restful cared for space. It could, hopefully, be removed to the adjacent compound. The wall around this side of the space also needs repair. The Broadford Depot is in a strategic location at the main entrance to the village. With its metal gate and security fencing and with weeds growing also on its perimeter, it adds little to the area. Boundary screening is needed, and the environs should be tidied up. There are also a lot of wires in this location. The farm supply business across from the park (at the Kilcock side of the junction) could be screened as its appearance is untidy. The gym and fitness sign is out of scale also at this junction. There are numerous

road type signs on the approach past the graveyard. Could these be rationalised into a lesser number?

All the verges on the route to Millpond were beautifully trimmed.

The Garden lifestyle centre at this location also could benefit from screening. Whereas the area outside the perimeter fence is tidy, the site inside is somewhat less tidy

Footpaths and verges as well as stone walls and hedgerows were well cared for, and the public buildings - church and school were exemplary.

Local authority signage was generally good. Particularly admired were the traditional yellow and black striped signs

There was no graffiti in evidence. This is good.

### **Residential Areas:**

The individual houses in the village are generally well maintained and landscaped. The estate at Millrace Lawns is well kept and landscaped with its lovely green area. Well done to all concerned! The Irish sign was admired.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach from the main road, from the Ballinadrumny area is affected by the untidiness referred to under the "tidiness" section above. The Broadford sign is bent on this approach. However once one leaves the immediate area, there is a pleasant approach to the village past the old graveyard. It is a long approach, and is rural in nature, giving nice small scale views of the context of the village location. The immediate entrance to the village street is attractive with trees, and a line of buildings in scale with the village on each side.

The surfaces at the edges of the street could do with resurfacing in places, and the footpaths need surfacing in the area in places also. The area between the street proper and the church area is well treed and has good hedgerows. It is also very neat. From the south (the Carbury side), the road all the way in from the Millpond is very well cared for and attractive. You are lucky to have only two approaches to the village. Although they are extensive in length, many villages have many more!

Thank you for the lovely photograph of the daffodils on the Millpond approach. That is the sort of floral display that is so suitable to this sort of rural village. Well Done  
!

### **General Impression:**

Broadford leaves an impression of a much loved and cared for rural village. You have no major problems to overcome, and your success in the competition will increase when you address the few issues which are being drawn to your attention. We wish you luck!