

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Broadford** Ref: **444**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **260**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	260

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Broadford to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your entry form that was completed in detail. The Three Year Plan page was also of help to the adjudicator. When revising your Plan for the period 2010 to 2012, it is suggested that you identify projects by adjudication category and by implementation year. Your Committee of 12 is large by national standards and you have very regular meetings. It was great to read of the significant agency support that you received, together with that of FAS. Links with the Schools appear to be well structured with the various Competitions, with which they are involved.

The Built Environment:

The improvement to the School frontage is really good. You do not state which School this is, but presumably it is the yellow building on the Dromcollogher road. The presentation here was excellent in every respect and the design from a traffic safety point of view is impressive. The opening up of the Lime Kiln, as a local historical feature, is welcomed. On the Newcastlewest approach, the School on the right hand side was also presented to a very high standard. The old National School was enhanced by the colourful window boxes. Nearby, the Catholic Church and the car park opposite were well presented and the mature landscaping at the car park softens the impact here of parked cars. The Walking Trails sign in the car park needs to be renewed. In the village, the O'Connell property caught the adjudicator's eye because of the simple clear lettering over the door. On the Tullylease road, the display of the Forge implements is most interesting and presumably this is the site of the old Forge? At the Handball Alley, the low blue wall at the raised landscaped area needed to be painted and the surfacing of the car park would make a big difference to the overall presentation here. The presentation at the old Creamery was satisfactory.

Landscaping:

The new flower beds on the Abbeyfeale and Kanturk roads were examined. Window boxes, hanging baskets and flower tubs have been used successfully in Broadford, both on private property and in more public areas. The Millennium Garden was visited and this is a very attractive, if poignant area. The level of maintenance here is high. Beside the Garden, the Grotto was presented to a similar standard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Arboretum walk was greatly enjoyed by the adjudicator and the level of interpretation provided here is high. The smaller plaques give relevant information but, perhaps, the larger interesting panels could be drawn professionally, when their time comes for renewal. The area of concrete at the access to the Arboretum was quite slippery and a very muddy part of the path caused problems. Overall, this is a really interesting area that interprets wildlife in an understandable way. Congratulations on The Golden Mile success. The area at the river bridge with the seat is quite attractive and this might be a location for an interpretative panel. The hanging baskets at the bridge here were admired.

Litter Control:

You have been quite creative in the media that you have used to get the anti-litter message out to the community. The work being done in the Schools on this is also obviously effective. A little litter was noted on the road to the Church and one or two pieces in the Arboretum. The Bring Centre is well presented, but the official signage is missing. The small raised landscaped area here was admired. A little litter was presented at the amenity area at the bridge.

Waste Minimisation:

You have taken positive steps to inform the community about the potential for waste reduction using the Newsletter and other media. Your links with the County Council in this regard are also progressive. Have you considered an informal audit of waste generation in Broadford?

Tidiness:

The new signage was admired and you seem to have done good work on weed control. On the Tullylease road, the buildings with the green doors would be improved if repainted. The derelict sites continue as a problem in Broadford. However, you are aware of the problem and seem to be making some progress. The river at the bridge was quite clean, apart from some recent litter that probably got blown in.

Residential Areas:

The Best Garden Competition is a worthy initiative and hopefully this continues from year to year. A house near the Newcastlewest junction was admired that skillfully uses three shades of blue. The two small estates on the Newcastlewest approach were quite well presented and good roadside landscaping here caught the eye. The estate on the Tullylease road appeared to be unoccupied and unfinished. It is suggested that this be screened from view pending the sale of houses here. St Mary's Terrace is beautifully presented and great efforts have been made by most property owners. Along John Paul Terrace, one garden was overgrown and needed urgent attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Newcastlewest approach, the verges and banks from the 50 KPH signs to the Broadford sign needed to be trimmed and cut. The resurfacing of the Main Street has made a great difference to Broadford, as has the new footpath to St Mary's Terrace. On the Dromcollogher approach, verges and banks were uncut, while on the Tullylease approach the 50 / 80 KPH sign could not be seen because of bank growth.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Broadford for the first time on a fine July morning. You are very focused on your work for Tidy Towns and have good ideas for future projects.