

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Bruff** Ref: **1077**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **251**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **09/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>251</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome Bruff TidyTowns Committee to the 2009 Competition. Thank you for your entry form and for your three year plan 2009-2011, and for the supporting documentation including your Constitution for Bruff TidyTowns. Also included are papers on School Litter, Green School Committee, Clar Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh, Maps of Bruff, and Bruff Brochure. I must congratulate you on the very comprehensive submissions and for the well structured, detailed and itemised specific targets articulated in the plans. Your Vision, Mission Statement, Objectives and Aims are well thought out. These will serve your Committee well for the benefit of Bruff into the future. It is obvious that the 10 member committee have carried out a very diligent process in the preparation of your plans and the structure of the committee, and your plans indeed, could serve as a model for other towns in the Competition. Your partnership approach, which is to be applauded, and your involvement with the many clubs and organisations is a very useful approach to the preparation of the town of Bruff for TidyTowns 2009. Your approach in setting tangible and doable projects that can be completed in a timely manner and for a manageable cost is obviously paying dividends.

The work of your Committee, which was only set up in February 2008, is already very evident and the resulting projects are positive for Bruff and its environs.

It is evident that your committee of 10 members has been very busy preparing the town for adjudication and holding monthly meetings, additional site meetings and contact with the various groups and organisations in the town. Your enthusiasm has, no doubt, been instrumental in achieving the support of the 20 different organisations and clubs listed that are a vital part of life in Bruff. The integration of other organisations' plans into your three year plan is positive. The role of local business people in TidyTowns is also a vital ingredient for success.

Your linkages to Cuan Mhuire pay dividends for many.

The aim of involvement with the schools to facilitate both to secure Green Flags is important, with long term benefits accruing to the community. Your primary aim of creating awareness of TidyTowns in Bruff, as part of everyday life, captures the spirit of your efforts. The TidyTowns logo is excellent.

### **The Built Environment:**

Bruff has a fine mixture of historic buildings, commercial operations and amenities. However, as is evident now in many small towns, there are a number of derelict premises in various states of disrepair situated throughout Bruff. The current economic climate and recession of course does not help to correct the situation. There needs to be found a solution by some imaginative thinking, e.g. Urban Renewal incentives focused on small rural towns, to help address the situation. This of course is not a criticism of TidyTowns Committee, rather the TidyTowns Competition helps to highlight the current problem. On the other hand, many premises have been renovated and given a new role within the community, and are a credit to all involved. We particularly admired the work done on the old RIC Barracks. The Old Bank Town House was beautifully presented with very attractive lighting and hanging baskets. The Old Bake House Restaurant was very impressive in its prominent location. Pubs that were appealing included Derry's Bar, Dave Clarke's Bar and Clancy's. Others to impress included: The Lantern Chinese Restaurant, Mac's Barber, and Solicitors and Clancy's (exhibiting colourful planting in tubs and hanging baskets). Other premises which were noticed included Bruff Credit Union, Bank of Ireland, O'Connor's Pharmacy, the Post Office and the Maxol Station, and Retail Units on the Limerick approach. The Garda Station was positioned on a good site. The old Church of Ireland complex is an impressive building as one approaches from the Kilmallock side. It was being redecorated inside on the day of our visit, always a good sign to see such renovations. As an aside, we noticed the memorial plaque to one John James Williamson of the British South Africa Police who died at Bulawayo in 1897 and had served in many military encounters. He was only 29 when he died. So much history rests in our small towns like Bruff that should be remembered and preserved for future generations!

The Flight of the Earls Mural was an impressive work of art, which brightened the junction. The wall murals at Clancy's of the rugby and one of steeple chasing depicting Istebraq were impressive.

St Peter and Paul's Church was located in an elevated position with painted railings, neatly maintained grounds and a well tended graveyard adjoining it. Sean Wall's Memorial opposite was in well maintained condition. The Courthouse was well maintained. Scoil Dean Cussen and the F.C.J. Convent Schools were immaculately presented.

The Community Cafe with its colourful exterior is a very worthwhile initiative which will benefit young and not so young alike. On the day our visit, we were served a lovely cup of morning tea by pleasant people. The Cafe was taking delivery of four PCs for use by the local people, an excellent facility.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping throughout the town and the environs continues to maintain a high standard. The red rose display in the stone bed, near the Grove Development, was in full bloom and very attractive on the day of the visit. The streetscape with the standard trees at the one side of the Main Street is an attractive feature. The flower beds and lawn at the Catholic Church were in good condition, with the Cape Daisies being particularly impressive. The landscaping at the Sean Wall memorial also deserves commendation, as does the flower beds at the turn off for the library. As stated above, your ongoing linkages with the Cuan Mhuire Garden Centre is commendable.

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

The strategy of using native trees and shrub species for planting to support native wildlife is praiseworthy and of longer term benefit. Getting the students to look after the Mallard ducks is encouraging, but expert advice should be sought as to the correct strategy. As stated in 2008 adjudicator's report the Morning Star Park and riverside walk offer wonderful opportunities for the encouragement of wildlife. The Park provides a little oasis of peace and was beautifully presented with neat paths, red bench seating, appropriate mixture of mature and young trees, attractive hanging baskets, flowerbeds and shrubberies. The riverside walk had neatly tiered flowerbeds inside the wall, white benches and red handrails at the steps (the rails would benefit from a fresh coat of paint).

Lough Gur is a superb historical and natural amenity to have nearby and it was good to note the aim to link Bruff to Lough Gur providing regular walks via the Old Cork Road.

**Litter Control:**

On the day of the visit, the County Council employee was busy at his clean-up and litter collection. The result of his work was excellent. All the streets were in excellent tidy condition with very little litter to be found. Our compliments to the employee for his commitment and diligence. One criticism is of your anti-litter poster to keep Bruff Tidy submitted as part of your entry package. This adjudicator suggests that the pictorial representation in the poster is inappropriate and should not be used as a poster. The Morning Star Park and riverside walk were generally clean.

**Waste Minimisation:**

We congratulate your National School on achieving its second Green Flag and note the aim of seeking a third. We are sure that the Secondary School will succeed with its application.

The targets set out for 2009 are praiseworthy, but may require some expert advice to implement. The aim to remind the public of centres for recycling for peak season usage at e.g. Christmas is praiseworthy. Working with local businesses to encourage waste reduction/recycling programmes to set up a community plan is worthwhile.

**Tidiness:**

As stated last year, the terrace of properties beside the river is located in a very prominent and visible position. Therefore, the painting of these building as appropriate would add to the ambiance of the area.

The bridges and stone walls around the Morningstar Park and River are a lovely feature of the town and therefore, the existence of some public signage in poor condition e.g. the FAS sign (SES committee) on the lamppost, detract from the attractiveness of the stone walls.

Once again it is recommended that as far as possible at least some of the overhead cables in the town could be removed and placed underground. It is appreciated that this could be a long term target and may prove difficult in the current economic climate.

The driving routes display board and the two display boards called "Stories from Times Past" are well maintained and attractive. It was good to see some of the recent election posters being removed on the day of the visit.

**Residential Areas:**

On all approaches to the town, there were some very attractive individual properties with well landscaped gardens and fine examples of hanging baskets and planted containers

There was a lovely mix of individual properties and small developments. The terraced houses leading to the Church were well presented. There were some lovely houses on the Courthouse Road and the cottages on the left-hand side were particularly appealing. The Brackvoan housing estate was in excellent condition. The green area was well maintained, however, there were some weeds at the kerbside. The Grove development would appear to be a victim of the economic downturn which is unfortunate. Sycamore Drive was nice and neatly presented. The little Close of bungalows beside Clancy's Bar was neat ,with trees planted on the right side of the road. The new development at Brugh na nDeise is quite attractive with a well maintained entrance area.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach roads to the town were in reasonably good condition, with some attractive stone walls and clean pavements. On the date of the visit, grass margins on the Kilmallock road were being trimmed, litter was being picked up, and weeding was taking place within the Town Park. The entrance signs to the town on the Limerick road and the Kilmallock road were in good condition; the Special Olympics sign on the Kilmallock Road could do with a coat of paint. The new paving and newly installed pedestrian crossings add to the streetscape of the town, as do the new heritage signs at the Church of Ireland. The speed limit sign on the Kilmallock Road was obscured by overgrown hedges.

**General Impression:**

We enjoyed our visit to your lovely town and once again give credit and congratulations to your Committee for

your excellent submission. It is evident that there is a very good community spirit in Bruff – indicated by the numerous clubs and organisations - and we hope that your Committee will get the support it deserves to carry out its proposed projects. We wish you well and look forward to future visits to Bruff.