

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Broadford** Ref: **444**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **283**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	39	40
The Built Environment	50	39	40
Landscaping	50	41	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33	33
Litter Control	50	33	33
Tidiness	30	18	19
Waste Minimisation	20	9	10
Residential Areas	40	29	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	278	283

Overall Development Approach:

Broadford is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your completed application form, three-year plan, additional information and photographs. You have maintained 14 people on your committee for 2012 and this is a good number for a town of this size. Do you get additional support from volunteers who are not part of the formal committee? You clearly have a very active group with regular meetings and liaison with a range of local and regional agencies. This is an excellent approach and one that sets you up well for continued success. Do many people turn up to your public meetings? How effective would you rate your communications strategy? Do you use electronic media? Social networks such as Facebook can be very effective in advertising your projects, promoting events and attracting new support. It is free and very easy to set up. In many instances a good Facebook page is more effective than a conventional website in keeping people up to date.

Your three-year plan was read with interest and you are commended for having completed at so many actions already. Do you think all remaining actions will be implemented by the end of 2012? Next year you will be working on a new plan and an honest appraisal of the first plan would be most useful. It is good to note that the school is engaged with the Tidy Towns group and it will hopefully be to your mutual benefit. Does the school participate in the green flag program?

You mentioned that you hold events from October 31st to November 5th but do not save what is. We would welcome some further detail here. Finally well done on your use of photographs and the inclusion of a hand drawn map. This clearly identified all the main landmarks of the town and areas upon which you are working.

The Built Environment:

Congratulations on acquiring the Carnegie library and this no doubt is a fine addition to the social and amenity life of the town. The community enterprise centre is a fantastically restored building and the brightly painted seats and pots add personality to the inscription on the wall. The Carnegie library is a wonderful feature of heritage value and it is great that it has found a new use. It looked quite well but would benefit from a new coat of paint, along with its boundary walls.

The old forge is looking well and was flying good flags. The credit union has done a wonderful job with its painted facade, as has the neighbouring post office. The murals on O'Suilleabhain and on the nearby derelict building are excellent and really complement one another. M. Riordan's bar is most attractive while it is almost outdone by the Village Inn. The church and neighbouring national school are more lovely additions and both were superbly presented. The school looks very well cared for with its clean coat of paint, mature trees and green flag flying proudly.

The community childcare building is of a tasteful design and very well presented. Landscaping here is particularly effective.

Landscaping:

Planting in the community centre is coming along nicely although red maple is not to this adjudicator's taste. Native species such as birch, rowan and whitebeam tend to add more colour. Attractive hedgerows stretch all the way into town and these are wonderful features worthy of conservation. They could be enhanced by replanting hawthorn where gaps have appeared.

Colourfully planted seating accompanied by pots of flowers look really well. The display of farm machinery is a point of interest. The bamboo screening here is effective while some climbing plants could be put to good use on the bare concrete walls.

Along Main Street the quite mature maple and whitebeam trees are excellent features that have year-round effect. The memorial garden is a beautiful set piece that is carefully tended, well done on the presentation of this quiet spot.

The wildlife arboretum is a true delight and yet another focal point that sets Broadford apart. It has a real wilderness feel while the panel detailing the quarry's history adds further interest. It really is a wonderful place, well done. A Christmas tree dumped at the entrance however needs to be removed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The main aim of this category is to encourage participation in, and appreciation of, conservation of the local natural heritage. In this regard it is impressive that you have been engaged in guided walks and talks including a dawn chorus event. This is wonderful, do many people turn up for these? Do give more details on the installation of bird boxes: how many?; have they been occupied?; by whom? Monitoring these might be a nice school project. You are most fortunate to have the arboretum in your town. There are many other features of wildlife value here such as the river, hedgerows and tall trees, all of which provide resources for plants and animals. Your plans under this heading are many and varied and you are wished every success in their implementation.

The River is an excellent wildlife viewing area and it was noted that a bankside seat does exist. It was totally overgrown however.

Litter Control:

The school, judging from the photos, appears to have taken part in the national spring clean. However this was not mentioned in your application form. You are fortunate that you have managed to retain Fás involvement in your town and daily litter inspections. Many centres have lost theirs of late due to cutbacks. Are there litter patrols undertaken by the Tidy Towns group?

Small litter items, especially cigarette ends, had gathered on the kerbing outside the takeaway. However litter control in general was to a good standard elsewhere.

Tidiness:

Well done on removing damaged road signs and painting poles. It is noted that you would like to see overhead wires put underground and this would be a major development for Broadford. Have you been in touch with the ESB in this regard? Have you had a formal response? Do watch out for fly-posting and a nice

project would be to paint farm gates a uniform colour.

Directional signage at the main junction is a bit cluttered and needs to be cleaned while the benefits of the smaller, finger signage across the road is diminished somewhat by other advertising signage.

Waste Minimisation:

The details of your waste management program were admired. It is excellent that you are taking a full-bodied approach to this category and have moved beyond recycling alone. In particular the proposed waste audit should provide you with useful data upon which to base future actions. How much waste does Broadford generate? Where does this go? How can this waste be categorised? Your awareness raising actions would be useful here also. Do be aware that community composting may require a waste licence. Composting is best done at the home level so a workshop on this would certainly have value. You could designate a composting area for green waste but do liaise with Limerick county council before embarking on this.

It is mentioned elsewhere that the school is working towards a green flag but this should be given full mention here. Is there just one school in Broadford? Do they already have a green flag? Many of their ideas could be applied across the community. (The green flag was later noted flying from the school - well done!)

Residential Areas:

It is excellent that you have residents associations in all areas. Do all of these in turn engage with the Tidy Towns?

Homes throughout Broadford were looking very well on adjudication day and many attractive gardens were admired. Curramore is a lovely collection of small houses with a cared for, community feel. The semicircular Lios Dara follows a very traditional layout while the new pergola and display of roses are real attractions. Well done.

St Mary's Terrace is a wonderfully maintained row of traditional style houses. Many gardens here are exemplary, well done on such a high level of upkeep.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Well done on installing the footpath from the crèche to the village. The approach from Abbeyfeale is most attractive and flowers in baskets coming across the old bridge are a real treat.

The road through the town is very well surfaced while it is great to see a good footpath running all the way to the school on the outskirts. Best of luck with your plans for additional footpaths and cycle ways.

The small road leading to Tullylease needs some repair and the traffic cones seems to be warning of a hazardous pothole.

General Impression:

Broadford was a real treat for this first-time visitor. The standard of building presentation and range of attractions was perhaps what most impressed. You are making excellent strides in this contest. Well done and keep up the good work.