

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Brannockstown** Ref: **358**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **268**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/07/2013**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2012 | Mark Awarded 2013 |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 33 | 33 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 34 | 35 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 33 | 35 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 17 | 18 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 40 | 40 |
| Sustainable Waste And Resource Management | 20 | 8 | 9 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 20 | 21 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 31 | 32 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 38 | 38 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 261 | 268 |

Overall Development Approach:

Brannockstown is welcomed to the 2013 Tidy Towns competition. Your entry together with map and plan were very helpful to the adjudicator. This small rural village surrounded by mature trees, land of superior quality and bordered by superb stone walls makes it unique and a joy to visit. Your committee are very focussed on the developments you would like to see achieved for the village. You engage well with the local school and by being part of the School Board of management you are interacting with the schoolchildren and parents. In any village or town it is good to see networking between groups and it makes it easier to get work done and achieve goals. Your involvement with all the other relevant agencies is also noted and the methods you use to get the message out across are broad. It is good to see that Facebook is one of your communication methods, texting is also another good method, this way you are saving time and also paper which in a later category is important in reducing waste produced.

The Built Environment:

The village may be scarce of businesses but the built environment has uniqueness of old and new. Brannockstown Baptist Church and grounds have certainly stood the test of time and are looking superb. The National School having achieved green flags status is to be applauded. This is a great achievement for a small village and certainly indicates a good working community. The village pump is another nice feature of the village.

Landscaping:

As you enter the village one cannot but notice the mature trees and the lovely herbaceous planting along the edge of the wall. This planting looks well and gives good colour along the road edge. The creation of this planting area along the wall looks superb against the grey stone wall. The village signs also look well. There were many nice areas of landscaping at entrances to the houses throughout the village. Your use of all year round planting is applauded as this provides colour through the year and the hanging baskets and tubs throughout the village during the summer bring that extra splash of colour to the area. Your proposed project of planting amenity/picnic area at the river would be welcomed. The pots of flowers on the poles along the footpath looked well also.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

From your plan for the village it is noted that with the help of Kildare County Councils Heritage officer you hope to complete a habitats survey and also develop a heritage trail with signage and information board. This would be a welcomed project for the village as the area lends itself to many areas of habitat for wildlife. From the trees and hedges and the stone walls that are a haven for insects and the closeness of the river which is also home for many types of wildlife. These projects would be important for the school to be part of and the provision of a nature trail through this village would have so much to offer to the walker.

Litter Control:

The committee are doing well in this category creating anti-litter awareness throughout the community. It is good to note that the school is part of your campaign as creating awareness among the schoolchildren is important. The village was almost free of litter on day of adjudication, well done.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Your involvement with the Green Schools Scheme has created awareness among the community on how waste can be reduced. It is noted that a survey was undertaken in 2011 on waste management practice. What was the result of that survey? In this category it is how a community reduces the amount of waste it produces. There are many areas involved where the community can reduce waste produced. They should also consider areas of resource efficiency such as water energy and transport. This type of efficiency not only reduces waste but is also a saving in money to the community. It is also important to look at how items can be reused and maybe provide funding for projects in the community. Your School has achieved so much in this area that the community will go on and do likewise. Any surveys undertaken do submit the results with you entry.

Tidiness:

The footpaths throughout the village were generally good. At the Harristown Estate the footpath here needs tidying with some leaves and weeds in this area. The stone walls bordering the village give a tidy aspect. Keep watch on the ivy, while it may be a wildlife habitat it can also damage stone walls and these walls are too good to be damaged in this way.

Residential Areas:

The Residential areas of the village are superb. Moorhill Wood was visited. This is a well maintained area with green area and lanterns. The wall across the green area here looked dreary, Moorhill cottage was also admired. The house on the corner of Ballymore Eustace road with the canopy over the door was admired. The houses that formed the streetscape were all well presented. The gardens were well tended and the splash of colour here and there from hanging baskets and flower tubs all added to the streetscape. The stone walls of the village, the old houses that have their own character and the new estates have blended in to give this village a special charm.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads in to the village have a mix of mature trees, hedging and superb stone walls. The house at the T-junction, leading into a farm, has gates that were in need of painting. The grange entrance with the red geraniums had a paling that would benefit from a hedge being planted and there was also a gate that needs attention in this area.

General Impression:

This village as mentioned earlier has its own uniqueness and was a pleasure to visit and judge. It also has a good committee that is committed to maintaining and developing the area without losing its character. This can be noticed from the houses that were built and how they complimented the fine old houses that form the village. Well done on your work for this year's competition and continued success in the future.