

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Broadford** Ref: **359**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **299**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **23/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	49
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	45
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>299</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014 and congratulation on your 20 years of participation. We have noted that your committee of eight people are actively involved with other residents of Broadford in attending to various matters in your community. It appears that your two main meetings each year set the scene for the many other impromptu meetings that are held at other times. We enjoyed your remark that the creativity and imagination that arises from meetings over the handles of shovels is priceless. It is clear that you have strong links with residents, voluntary groups and schools. You receive support from local businesses and public bodies. We also liked your description of the children's experiences in the "Eco-Park" with the bug hotel. Congratulations to St. Mary's National School on winning their Green Flag in 2013.

The involvement with local schools is commendable. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with the projects marked. However, we note that this is an old ordnance map (1910) and we found it confusing because a school is marked in what you have called the village. It took us some time to realise that the school is not as marked on the map. The project numbers were so closely spaced that they covered the detail. We advise the preparation of a more suitable map for next year's adjudication. The three year plan (2012-2015) is also noted. For next year, please consider listing the projects on one sheet and marking their stage of completion.

### Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

We were pleasantly surprised with our visit to Broadford. Outside the well decorated pub (Teach an Atha Leathain) we noted the picnic benches and no weeds to be seen. Hanging baskets there and at Blonde Ambition were looking well. The car park at the rear of Blonde Ambition was fine and we noted the clothing bank. Houses opposite the pub were well painted and we admired the window boxes on two of them. The telephone box and the post box looked well. The two stone buildings beside the pub are fine structures in good condition. Some information about them would be helpful. Broadford United AFC grounds are located behind the village and the grounds look well. The school was well painted and had a Green Flag proudly flying. The church is a lovely stone building set off with two cedar trees. The grounds were well kept and we admired the boundary wall at the front with horizontal steel bars between the pillars. The hanging baskets and containers here were excellent. A grove of trees of the Eco Park form a delightful frame for the church. The car park opposite the church has a good surface and the walls and gates are well painted. The cemetery was one of the best ever seen. The graves and the grass are well maintained and there was no litter or weeds to be seen. We noted the seating here and in the open space between the car park and the cemetery which has its new cross. We noted your emphasis regarding reinstatement of the flanking wall of Broadford Bridge and wish you luck in your endeavours. Clonuff Bridge is well painted. We suggest extending the pathway from An Tobar Coill to link with the pathway on the other side of the road/bridge.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and you have some good examples, especially in the church grounds and in the Eco Park. Mature trees in the field on approach to the school added to the character of this area as did the cattle grazing there. In planting new trees it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity. In this regard we note that on the roadside south of the church there is a mix of species. A scheme to have just one species on this road is advisable and we suggest you use native or naturalized species such as Ash, Birch, Rowan or Maple. Poplar trees in the open space between the graveyard and the car park are in decline. We advise that you plan to replace them as soon as possible in the coming years. Other trees here are of interest include a fine specimen of Spanish Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). The use of purple trees or shrubs clashes with the rural environment and for that reason they are best avoided. Also, we note that the hedge is essentially sprouts from poplar tree stumps. As long as you treat this boundary as a hedge with annual clipping it is fine but we advise against allowing new poplar trees to establish from the sprouts. Guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible. Landscaped strip outside the Eco Park is well done. We admired the sculptures, the seats, picnic tables and the well maintained planted areas containing roses, shrubs, perennial plants and some bedding plants. The site is bounded by attractive timber bollards and we admired the wooden arch leading to the Eco Park. The use of permanent planting as you have done here is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming. An Tobar Coill site looked well and we noted your desire to replace the concrete bollards with timber ones. In our view, the concrete bollards are small and not very noticeable and therefore we do not see the need for their replacement. This area looked well.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:**

Your community is surrounded with an array of habitats and it is important to promote an awareness of the many traits and to map these habitats. We visited the Eco Park and enjoyed the wonderful undergrowth of herbaceous flora and we saw the bug hotel. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages and we noted the talk and workshop on biodiversity and are pleased that the pupils of the school are availing of the Eco-Audit information. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. List the plants and animals to be found in your natural environment and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?).

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

This category is becoming more and more important and the available marks are now increased to 50 to highlight the need for communities to address the issues involved in tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. We note that you have listed four projects in your three year plan for implementation under this category. The booklet on energy efficiency with some tips is very good; we hope it was well received by the community. We also note your mention of doing a similar leaflet on water usage but it was not attached. In any case, what is important is the impact of measures taken by the community. Perhaps this will be easier in the future with the water meters. An area for electrical recycling at the church car park and the composting facility in Eco Park is also noted but do you have some information on the amount of material composted in the past year? Similarly, with the clothes recycling day, do you have information on its success in terms of funds raised? There are a number of other measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability. Contact your waste contractors and try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced. Examine the waste pyramid and note the recycling is only the fourth most preferred option after avoidance, reducing and re-using. One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition. In regard to water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering. Other waste minimisation projects might include working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. In response to an over use of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. In some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Broadford village looks very well; congratulations on your weekly attention to maintenance of margins and litter collection as well as other tidying works, the results of which are quite evident. We note that you also have some junior members helping on these occasions and that is wonderful for future succession. Well done to teachers and pupils on achieving the Green Flag and it is noteworthy that your efforts are leading to a reduction in refuse bins. Prospect House is derelict but the garden planting is partly screening this site. Some crates outside the club house looked untidy.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

Your work with local residents on improving their property is successful as we admired the buildings in the village. In particular, we admired the privet hedge in a private garden of one of the old stone houses. Millrace Lawns is a well maintained estate. Every house is well painted and there were lots of flowers. Nice seats at the entrance and no weeds. We suggest that flowers under trees be repositioned to avail of more light and less competition for water and nutrients with tree roots. The signs were clean.

**Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

The signs on approach roads were clean. The flower beds looked well at the stone signs and the grass was well maintained. Footpaths outside the pub and Blonde Ambition would help to reduce the untidiness of the gravel.