

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Broadford** Ref: **359**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **319**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	51	51
Streetscape & Public Places	50	42	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	47	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	33	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	33
TOTAL MARK	450	316	319

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Broadford An tAdh Leathan chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Broadford Area Residents Association is welcomed to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2018, your 24th year in succession entering the competition. Thank you for your comprehensive Application Form, Community Action Plan 2017-2020 and attached photographs. The map provided with your entry was quite faded and unclear and unfortunately was not easy to read. It would be helpful for the adjudicator, if the map submitted was clearly printed and specifically identified items of interest together with a numbered key pinpointing each item or project completed. Your Committee of eight members and one hundred and twenty volunteers represents a large number to be involved in Tidy Towns for a village the size of Broadford and indicates a strong sense of local commitment and community spirit – this is confirmed by a willingness of almost all residents to help on projects, where necessary. Two main Committee meetings are held per year with many informal 'over the handle of a shovel' meetings are held, where new ideas are discussed. Tidy Towns activities in Broadford are supported by a very wide range of local organisations and businesses too numerous to mention and you communicate with the general public via Facebook, Newsletter, word of mouth, Newspapers/Publications, Public Meetings and Breda Resource Centre. There is a close relationship with the local St. Marys National School which makes use of the Eco Park in the village, and this provides a very important educational resource for the schoolchildren. It is heartening to note that doing well in the competition helps to motivate the Committee and local people to work harder to keep Broadford looking at it's best.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

The Church grounds were visited and are maintained to a very high standard. The two blue atlas cedars near the school boundary were particularly admired. The Church car park was presented in a neat and tidy condition but the surface now requires remarking. Broadford National School was visited and the front boundary along the road was pristine. The school flags have deteriorated in condition and could be renewed as well as the surfacing in front of the school. You have carried out repair works on the lay-by area at the Garden Centre including the repair of timber seats and footpaths. The flagship project for this year is the upgrading the open space at the Millpond, including the installation of a memorial Celtic Cross in memory of the 240 graves discovered on a nearby site. Perhaps some research could be carried out on the origins of the Graveyard and some information on this provided near the new stone. We wish you well in relation to the further installation of a memorial garden on this site.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The planting schemes in Broadford Village, which are well defined with attractive natural stonework or paving surrounds, were greatly admired. These were all well maintained providing good ground cover and colourful

displays particularly the pink roses which were enjoying the hot sunny weather. The herbaceous perennial planting along the boundary wall of the Church grounds provided good ground cover here and enhanced the appearance of the stone boundary wall. The green spaces in Broadford are generally maintained to a very good standard with closely mown grass, seating and artistic elements. It would be good to introduce some wildflower meadows in these areas, as appropriate and where this does not detract from the overall maintenance or appearance of the areas e.g. located close to boundaries etc.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

Your Eco Park is a wonderful resource available to your Community. The Park was visited and the Bug Hotel with its 7 floors of accommodation, attractive chimney feature and green roof was excellently put together. No doubt this structure provides the best accommodation for all your woodland insect species which can be studied and monitored by the schoolchildren throughout the year. The woodland path provides access to a wonderland of nature with a wide range of flora and fauna on display. It was noted that there was a large Beech tree which had fallen from an adjoining property and this was lying near the path and will need to be removed in the near future. You undertook a Bat Survey a number of years ago and engage with Wild Kildare who check your bat boxes on a regular basis.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

You are making good strides in the area sustainability of resources and in doing more with less and in particular the installation of rainfall harvesting schemes at three locations in the village i.e. at the School, Cemetery and Church. This is a great initiative which is particularly important given the current shortages of drinking water in the country. The watering Bee seems to be an interesting idea – perhaps the use of this invention for watering plants could be demonstrated on your Facebook page? You have initiated projects under the theme of waste reduction and recycling, energy efficiency and water conservation. Other projects under this category which you might consider for next year could include establishing a car-pooling arrangement for the Village or provision of extra bicycle parking facilities. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure needs to be expanded around the country and perhaps a charge point could be installed at a suitable location in Broadford village?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

In general, the presentation of the village of Broadford was very neat and tidy with no litter noted. Signage was clean and not obscured by vegetation. Your weekly litter picks are working well and are a testament to the commitment of local residents to the care and improvement of their area.

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

Front gardens to private residences in Broadford were generally very well maintained and presented. Millrace lawns and the open spaces at the entrance to the estate were greatly admired. The houses here looked very well with attractively landscaped and planted front gardens. The flower boxes mounted on the backs of the timber seats on the open space were particularly striking and enhanced the area. There is a dead tree overhanging the road located opposite the entrance to this estate which will need to be removed as soon as possible.

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

Road surfaces and markings on approach roads into Broadford are generally to a good standard. Roadside margins and boundary hedgerows are neat and well maintained and enhance the approach to the village. It is good to see you are carrying out Winter bulb planting schemes along roadside margins which provide colourful displays in Spring. The roadside margins in Broadford are very suitable for mass bulb planting and this type of planting could provide a wonderful feature in the village in the early part of the year. You are wished well with your proposal to develop a Community park-and-ride facility on an unoccupied Council site in the village.

Concluding Remarks:

Broadford has achieved a lot in the Competition over the years. It would be good to keep up this momentum as you progress to the upper echelons of the Competition. We wish you well with your future endeavours.