Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Broadford - An tÁth Leathan**	Ref:	**359**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**388**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**02/07/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	57	59
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	55	58
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	40	43
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	24	26
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	69	70
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	41
TOTAL MARK	**550**	**372**	**388**

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bhailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh don obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhur dtionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór. Broadford is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition for 2025. Thank you for your application and map. Broadford has a committee of ten but a large number of volunteers helping to enhance and develop this beautiful heritage village. There is good support from all members of the community with fund raising, litter picking and tasks that need to be carried out. You are also fortunate to have CE workers helping with the daily maintenance of the village. They were busy doing this work on day of adjudication. There is ongoing support from Kildare County Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Birdwatch Ireland and all local businesses with funding and advice on various projects. The children from the National School are also involved with great interest in the Eco Park. Communication to the wider community is through social media, newsletters/papers, public meetings and word of mouth. Taking part in the Tidy Towns competition has created a greater sense of pride in the community, with the community working together to develop and enhance the village more with various projects.

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

Broadford has a mix of heritage and modern builds all adding their own charm and character to their surroundings. The committee are ensuring that the heritage sites are being maintained while developing projects to meet the needs of the community today. These projects include the erection of a bus shelter, which is essential for travellers using public transport. The garden centre green area and seating is well presented, which is important with a large number of people using the well maintained recycling facility. The Church and grounds are well presented. The walk from the Church through the wooded area, leading to the Eco Park was admired. The carpark was neat and tidy. The graveyard is also well maintained. After climbing the steps to the top, a seat in this area could be welcomed. Please do refrain from using weed killer on the grass along the paths as it takes from the overall natural appearance of the area. The school and surroundings were bright and colourful. The old graveyard is very well maintained which shows heritage in the village is important. Perhaps a heritage trail would be a good project to think about, to ensure all heritage sites are documented and continued for future generations. The Millpond memorial project is remembering your past community members and this is applauded. The Eco Park has a lot of interest from the proclamation to the bug hotel and bird feeders, all adding interest to this well maintained relaxing park. It is good to see that the old post box, pump and the telephone box, part of the village history are being retained.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The landscaping throughout the village is bright and colourful with many pollinator friendly plants included in the landscaping. It is good to note from your photos that you have planted bulbs, which bring great colour and interest to the village during the sometimes dreary days of spring. The use of wildflowers in planting was also admired, particularly at Ballinadrimna name stone and the Eco Park. The Church grounds are also well landscaped, perhaps two large pots at the front of the Church would be more effective and replace the large number presently there. This would also save on maintenance such as watering. It is important to have the assistance of two nurseries to help with the planting and advice on landscaping in the village.

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

The village has plenty of habitats for wildlife in the woodland, stone walls and hedgerows that are part of the village boundary. Your planting of bee friendly landscaping adds greatly to the biodiversity of the village. What is also important is that you are appreciating and gathering information on the different species that are in your midst. The nature walks with the school are very important. It is good that you have identified a large number of birds with the help of a bird enthusiast. The number of different birds probably surprised the local community. These can be added to in future walks and it also helps the children and community get to know the birds and their habits. The bug hotel in the woods must have a number of different guests living there.

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

In this category groups are asked to show how they are making their area more sustainable by their actions. The three main themes where this is possible are in water, transport and energy. Most groups are adapting to methods on a daily basis that is addressing some of these if not all three. More and more homes and businesses are installing solar panels and using led lighting to help reduce on electricity. Harvesting of rainwater by installing water butts to help with watering plants and other tasks is also becoming the norm. You have addressed this with the provision of three rainwater stations that can be used by the community. Members of the community have also attended a conference on caring for water, which is important to ensure water is protected and improved on if required. The use of public transport, cycling and walking has also increased. There are more bus routes available particularly in rural areas and this is commended. You have secured a bus shelter for that purpose to ensure those travelling have an official bus stop and shelter. Waste is being segregated when collected and recycled where possible. Most waste companies are ensuring that food waste bins are being used for that purpose. Planting of perennial plants and using seeds and cuttings are all excellent ways of saving. Reducing the amount of grass being mowed is also encouraged. Any grass mowed with mulch mowers can be left reducing that need for composting. Materials mulched such as wood are very useful for use on landscaped beds.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village has a good plan in place on the control and hopefully eradication of litter. There are a number of volunteers working on a weekly basis to keep the village clean. It is good to note that the amount of litter collected from dumping on the bog road has reduced. Well done to all the volunteers and the councillor that have helped with this project. You are also commended on the work you have done cleaning the signage. Signs are very important particularly for those visiting the village. The railings, gates and bins were also admired.

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

The houses along the approach roads and throughout the village are very well presented with well painted facades, neat gardens and good landscaping. The residents at Millrace lawns take great pride in presenting their homes and surroundings to a very high standard. The green area with superb landscaping makes this area a pleasure to visit and certainly live there. The entrance stone was also admired with the name clearly visible. The residents are commended on the work they have done in presenting their homes to such a high standard and also for helping with projects that are developing and enhancing the village and surroundings.

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

The approach roads to the village have good entrance signs that are well presented with landscaping. Trees and hedging are noted along all approach roads. Grass verges are well mown, perhaps a reduction in the amount mown and leaving more of a corridor on the inside would benefit wildlife. This would also help to reduce on mowing which would still leave the verges neat. The area at the garden centre is well maintained and is a nice picnic spot. The Eco Park is full of interesting features and a haven for wildlife. Well done on acquiring a bus shelter for the area and hopefully the second one will follow.

Concluding Remarks:

The village of Broadford continues to improve each year with completed projects that are helping to develop and enhance the area. The village is also ensuring the heritage sites are protected for future generations. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.