

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Brosna** Ref: **276**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **262**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	32	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>262</b>

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

Céad fáilte roimh Brosna TidyTowns go comórtas SuperValu TidyTowns na bliana 2015. Well done for preparing your submission and presenting your village for this year's competition. At this stage you are old hands at this competition and great credit is due to the volunteering spirit and efforts of members of your community over those years. You use the word 'persuasion' in another context but you must have developed great powers of persuasion over those years. One would like to know more about your committee of 10. Is each person given an area of responsibility? Is there a good age cross section on the committee? Do new residents to Brosna feel comfortable about joining your committee? You might fill in those blanks for us for the coming year. Dereliction and a high density of holiday homes seem to be major issues for this committee. But you are facing up to those issues and with a certain degree of success. One wonders why you do not have a 3 Year Plan. After all you would have been encouraged down the years to compile one. This is a topic you might discuss for 2016 starting with: What would you wish for Brosna by 2020?

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

Your submission mentions painting on a number of occasions. From time of arrival in the village the adjudicator admired the number of buildings that had freshened up the fronts of their homes with a fresh coat of paint. Your streetscape would look shambolic were it not for the cooperative attitude of the residents and the premise owners along the street. The problem that arises as a consequence of this diligence is that the buildings that are not tended to stand out like the proverbial sore thumb. One wishes you good luck in your efforts to bring all on board. Your school complex is very well maintained but the yellow could do with a helping hand. One has concerns about the appearance of the Garda station, as it will deteriorate unless given a helping hand also. But no fault can be found with the Church, the grotto, the Post Office, Woodview Bar, Parish Hall. The GAA complex deserves a special mention. Tigh na Bheidhleadóirí gives a sense of the musical heritage of the village. Out of town we meet another delightful piece of Irish as we are encouraged to Lig do Scíth on the way to the freshly painted hand rails. This is the ideal setting to Lig do Scíth! Well done.

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

The adjudicator arrived via Patsy's Cross. What a wonderful start to the visit to a village that one had never visited before. The flowers looked delightful, and we still are some distance from the village at that Cross. But it is proper that you claim ownership of Patsy's through that landscaped bed. Well done. Patsy's apart, the residents of the street brighten up their surroundings with colourful window boxes all over the village and some hanging baskets also. To those of you who walk these streets each day you might not notice the impact that these floral displays make but to the adjudicator these flowers represent the pride that residents have in their little village and their

determination that vacant premises will not bring the overall image down. The fruit of your labours and the labours of other Tidy Towns committees over the years can be seen everywhere as at the centre piece at the square, at the grotto, John's Worth and nasturtiums add interest as one climbs the street, in numerous shrubberies but especially at the one on the way to the school. A yellow house softens the sharp corners of its front with a raised bed and delightful planting. You mention the planting of daffodils and tulips for Spring colour at the entrance to Cois Abhainn. Your planters on the street were noted. Make sure the timber is kept freshly painted. The adjudicator urges you to continue that colour into the summer and autumn seasons also. The two raised beds at Páirc na Féile and the shrubbery at the cemetery need an injection of care and could do more for their surroundings. Both are strategically placed and could add to the wonderful care that is evident from the beautifully presented wall. If only those shrubberies looked as well as the shrubbery on the way to the school. The tubs at Cois na hAbhainn need loving care.

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

A feature of the visit was the sound of the river in various locations as it cascades along. Another lovely experience on the trip was the view of the village from beyond the school as the houses seemed to cascade down the hill into the valley. This is a scenic location enhanced by the trees, the woods, the hedging. This area is teeming with wildlife. When I read last year's report I was excited that studies of habitats had been carried out so there would be lots of information on what is being done to promote wildlife in this area. So you can imagine the disappointment when the only project mentioned was works down at the island that would be of little benefit to the wildlife. In fact there is a danger that habitats might be interfered with. Get back to the work you seem to have undertaken some years ago and work from there. The adjudicator loved the bird box at the bridge. Along by that divine stone wall opposite Cois na hAbhainn there is an outbreak of Knotweed. Get onto the Environmental Area Officer and seek advice on how to eradicate this invasive species. The adjudicator feels obliged to reduce your mark in this section.

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

Thank you for the letter from the school. Well done to the school authorities, the pupils and the parents for their wonderful achievement in gaining a 6th Green Flag. This particular Green Flag relates to an issue that is being highlighted by TV ads at present. It also is part of the every day living in the home. One can imagine your pupils becoming agitated by food waste at home and in Granny's! The arguments that so naturally flow are great in drawing attention to the food waste that happens so frequently without anyone taking notice. This might be an opportunity for your committee to jump on the food waste band wagon by encouraging the community to visit [stopfoodwaste.ie](http://stopfoodwaste.ie), now while the iron is hot. If Irish Water do not carry out your wishes with regard to water saving measures why doesn't your committee take on the task? The pupils in the school have already been through this for one of their flags. Have you discussed the possibility of water harvesting with water butts? Let the water be another projects for the 2016 submission. The success of the school in engaging with the Green Flag programme is what earns you most of your marks.

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

It is impressive that you participated in the Kerry Clean-up in April and one hopes that you got plenty local support. A couple of photos of the event would enliven your submission and give an idea of the age range of your litter pickers. Well done on your monthly litter picks which are absolutely necessary as, despite your efforts, there is litter on the roadside and on the way to the pedestrian bridge and in one estate. The painting of the buildings adds no end to the tidy aspect of the main street. When there are buildings vacant their lack of upkeep creates an untidy contagion in their immediate surroundings. Keep up your efforts to get all property owners on board with the coats of paint. At least one occupied dwelling needs an urgent helping hand. There is one pillared farm entrance on the street that is poor. By contrast a corrugated entrance is painted a bright red and along with its neighbouring entrance give a lift to their surroundings. Make sure that the pump and the bench at the centre are freshly painted. Just as the new bench is presented at the grotto. The fact that there are no cables to be seen adds to the tidy image of Brosna. A fine footpath that continues past the GAA pitch creates definition that supports the sense of tidiness. The marking of the parking spaces also adds to the tidy appearance.

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

On the road from Patsy's one remarks on the fine houses along the road. The same is true on the road to the new cemetery. These houses create a colourful and interesting cameo as one travels. Residential housing along the street has been remarked on already for the wonderful painting of those fine buildings which have been home to generations of people from Brosna. It is inevitable that houses become vacant. One hopes that such vacancy is not for too long. But your role is to persuade, cajole, urge the owners to see their buildings in the context of the whole street. There are two fine estates. The adjudicator is pleased that both have their own name stones. But he also feels that much more could be done to enhance the appearance and the impact of those name stones with a more concerted landscaping design and investment. One of the estates creates great colour and texture through the efforts of its residents. The other needs a helping hand in the green finger department.

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

Whatever group is responsible for the fine Fáilte stones on all of the approach roads can take a bow. These name stones do not bellow Brosna out at us but let us know in a gentle fashion that we are about to enter your space. The adjudicator is sure that there has been plenty of discussion about the presentation of these stones: should they be at ground level; should they be raised a foot or so and be placed on raised beds; should they be allowed speak for themselves or should they be adorned with shrubs or perennials or what. Your decision but the adjudicator is

certain that the grass for some metres should be mown and care taken of the surrounding ground so that your stones can proclaim themselves and their message to full advantage. He wonders if that is happening at the moment on all approach roads. The natural hedging on the roads helps give the village its rural feel. The dry stone ditches are a feature along another road.

**Concluding Remarks:**

While the adjudicator is disappointed that more progress is not being made with sustainability and wildlife, the adjudicator understands that the main driving force and your *raison d'être* is the appearance of the village and the manner in which the village is landscaped. These are most important areas of concern and your efforts in those matters are highly commended.