

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Broadford - Ath Leathan** Ref: **444**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **344**
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	46	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	40	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
TOTAL MARK	550	332	344

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2023. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór.

Thank you for the concise entry form, other supplementary material and the first-rate map of the village of Broadford. The Sustainable Development Goals are at the heart of the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

These goals address the global challenges we face in relation to key environmental issues.

Tidy Towns has now fully integrated them into the competition with the objective of asking groups to demonstrate how SDGs impact of their activities.

Judging by your entry the committee has embraced the programme and aligned some of the SDGs to many of your work activities - well done on that score.

Last year's report alluded to the size of the committee and volunteer core in relation to the size of the village.

It looks a rather large number but if it works effectively who is this adjudicator to suggest change.

That said you comment that it has been hard to maintain the number of volunteers and that there has been a fall of in numbers

Many centres around the country would be somewhat envious of your committee structure!

You have a fairly impressive list of supporters that includes the local authority, other public agencies such as West Limerick Resources and a large cohort of other bodies, businesses, local organisations and sports clubs.

Methods of communication are a mixed of the tried and trusted such as local newsletters and a number of social media platforms.

No doubt the most trusted of all word of mouth plays an important part in your communication network.

The adjudicator visited the Broadford Community Page with a nice backdrop of the All Ireland Hurling Champions and it is bang up to date with information on the Parish including the upcoming Scrap Metal Fundraiser.

The participation of the local National School children in your activities has been noted and also you have second level students, most of whom attend Hazelwood College one assumes, involved as well.

Well done on your specific project the results of which the adjudicator observed during an extensive walkabout around the village and its extremities.

Thank you for your eloquently crafted endorsement of the competition and what it has meant to Broadford since you first entered all of 37 years. #

Its is noted that you have formed links with other tidy town groups including the lovely village of Kiskeam which of course is relatively nearby.

Friendly inter county cooperation no doubt.

You have succeeded in being in the top tier of the competition in the county during this period –so well done to all who have contributed down the years.

You have warranted an additional 2 marks in this category.

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

The committee has been involved in a large body of work in this category over the last year some of which crosses over into the Green Spaces and Landscaping.

It is not possible to comment on all of what you have been involved in a short sectional resume of a similarly concise 3-page report but be assured that all has been assessed and judged objectively.

The Completion of the Arboretum is a major achievement after ten years of painstaking improvement year on year and credit is due to all who maintain this wonderful amenity on an ongoing basis.

The Millennium Garden is another wonderful amenity that has been completely revamped since this adjudicator last visited Broadford some years back.

The Community Centre, which was your specific project, has been fully refurbished and will offer additional facilities to local organisations.

Funding for this project was via a number of sources including local fundraising activity and support from West Limerick Resources.

It falls under Government Project Ireland 2040 umbrella judging by the plaque on the wall.

When the immediate area around the building is tidied up it will be a fine new resource for your community.

Have to say that the Carnegie Library looked a little unloved and needed a basic stripping down and then a basic coat of paint applied.

There is an excellent article on the history of this building in the National Inventory of Architectural History.

Maybe I'm being a bit nit-picky on the condition of the exterior but the adjudicator thought it needed a little revitalisation.

Your comments about derelict and unoccupied properties as well as slightly uncooperative owners have been noted.

Not much to add except keep the dialogue going and despite our enthusiasm for Tidy Towns some do not share it and to be honest are not obligated to and in every town, village and hamlet there are such people.

Strange comment from an adjudicator but to be honest it's a fact.

On a positive note credit to the forge owner for his willingness to upgrade his premises and he deserves whatever help you can give him

The adjudicator agrees with your assessment of the road signage situation in the village but overall they were in an acceptable condition

The following are a few personal observations made by the adjudicator during the walkabout.

The Business Centre set up in 2011 was well managed and tidy.

Broadford Health Centre, whilst acceptable, could also do with a coat of paint so maybe the HSE could be prevailed upon to do this!

Scoil Mhuire was very well presented and the parking area was organised and well done on the poster tribute to two illustrious sporting stars.

Some fine business properties were observed and it would be a little unfair to single out one above the other.

Our Lady of the Snows RC Church and grounds were in resplendent condition as was the Grotto, credit to those entrusted with their upkeep.

Road surfaces were good, and footpaths including the new sections were also in acceptable condition.

You are wished well with your deliberations with Limerick County Council next year about the proposed housing developments and possible undergrounding of cables as part of the ancillary work.

An increase in marks is warranted.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The proposed housing development in the village has been commented upon in the previous category.

Scoil Mhuire has entered the Tiny Tidy Towns School Award competition and both teachers and pupils are wished well.

Does the fact that it is included in this category mean that the entry is based on Green Spaces and Landscaping?

Maybe it's a school garden project.

The adjudicator was taken aback at the level of maintenance needed to maintain all the green spaces that you have in the village

As well as these there are a large number of standalone planters and permanent stone beds all of which were presented to an exceptionally high standard.

The planting in the Church Grounds and the Grotto were greatly admired.

The new stone surround bed of impatiens will be very colourful when in full bloom and the new shrub bed near the car park that had the old reliables such as potentilla and cat mint was also admired

Part of the entry form asks the entrants to "demonstrate the year-round impact of landscape works in your community" and you have done that.

For next year maybe you might include additional photographs.

Well done on responding positively to the comments of last year's adjudicator that the planting of trees on pavements was ill-advised.

Trees do form part of any village or urban landscape but it would be prudent if you engaged with the local area engineer to discuss whether the present locations are suitable or not.

Overall the standard was very good and merits an increase in marks.

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

There is large body of work undertaken this category the adjudicator will endeavour to reflect as best as possible whilst making own observations as well.

The key components of this category are knowledge of local species and habitats and an understanding of the types of protected areas such as Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Reserves and Wildfowl Sanctuaries.

It is also important to have a knowledge of Biodiversity and the Law such as the Wildlife Act and Habitats & Birds Directive before embarking on any biodiversity related projects

The adjudicator feels that as a Committee you have embraced these concepts and understand the principles involved.

Good work is being done in the area of wildlife preservation and its promotion in an overall context.

The projects that you have listed are varied and more importantly are practical, quite a lot of which necessitate ongoing maintenance.

Well done on engaging the services of well-known Biodiversity Consultant to do a biodiversity survey for Broadford area and also for organising talks by other wildlife specialists

The work assigned for the Broadford Ashford Waling Trails was noted and well done to all the people involved in the development of additional trail facilities such as fencing and resurfacing of paths.

The Arboretum is indeed a very important social amenity for the community as well as an educational resource for children of both local and visiting schools.

The adjudicator noticed that sign into the amenity was slightly obscured by foliage.

The Millennium Park is also a contributor to this category and it's hard to imagine that it was 10 years since "The Gathering" was in vogue.

Very little more to add in this category except to keep up the excellent work and consult www.pollinators.ie and www.npws.ie as well as www.biodiversityireland.ie for regular updates on biodiversity matters.

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

This category is about how as communities we try to lessen the use of all resources so that we strive for a reduction of our environmental impact

It also creates a consciousness of the usefulness of the Circular Economy which in reality is a straightforward concept and was there albeit in different formats in decades past.

Aligned to the above this is a category that very much contributes to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and it is noted that you have assigned relevant goals to each of the measures that you have listed

"Doing more with less" is not just a catchy phrase it has now become a necessity.

You have listed a number of measures that you are involved within the entry form.

Some of these measures are particular to the Broadford but much of what you have submitted has been replicated around the country.

The adjudicator was impressed with the Air Monitoring station proposal and full marks to the local businessman who has volunteered to fund it.

Working with local shops to cut down on packaging is a practical application of the Doing more with less concept.

Well done to the local shopkeeper who has been cooperative with you on this initiative

Congratulations to Scoil Mhuire on achieving a Green Flag on Waste Prevention.

You are to be commended for negotiating a rural bus service with Local Link Rural Transport.

Overall you have done an immense amount of work in this category over the last year and again your efforts merit an increase in marks.

To get more out of this sector in terms of creating even greater awareness of all things that contribute to a more sustainable environment link to www.localprevention.ie (LAPN) www.origingreen.ie

www.giy.ie will give you an insight into Get Ireland Growing.

There is an excellent section on this category in the Tidy Towns Handbook via www.tidytowns.ie

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

What is notable about your entry under this category is how you have connected with all local businesses and members of all sectors of the community to spread the message of anti-litter and anti-dog fouling

The message of zero tolerance for littering and issues such as no dog fouling has been sent out to the community through all forms of communication.

Thank you also for acknowledging the work of local CE scheme participants as these good people are key to keeping places like Broadford clean and tidy continuously.

You have outlined in detail your involvement with Team Limerick Clean Up and well done on that score as well.

The adjudicator has assigned the Adopt A Road comment to the last category.

Dereliction and unoccupied premises have been dealt with elsewhere

There was little or no litter bar a few wrappers on the outskirts so the constant message that you relay to the community has paid off.

General tidiness was also good bar some residue at kerbsides of farm-related activity which is understandable as this is the season of full-flow silage making and lads in big tractors and back trailers showing extraordinary, if somewhat intimidating, driving skills.

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

The adjudicator visited all the housing areas that you have mentioned in this category and well done on engaging with the residents regularly on different aspects of Tidy Towns activities.

The long-established St Marys Terrace of single-story houses were in splendid condition and some lovely front gardens were admired.

A few of these houses have been refurbished tastefully and in tandem with the original style.

St John & Paul Terrace is another older estate and this was equally well presented with many houses having very tidy front gardens and painted boundary walls.
Your comment on the unfinished site on the Tullylease Road has been noted and there is very little a voluntary group can do in this context.
The adjudicator also took note of some very fine private residences in the village and on the outskirts.

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

The entrances into the village from both sides of the R515 Ashford Ballagh and Dromcoligher were in acceptable condition.
Some of the signs on the Ashford entrance were a little obscured.
The Tullylease Road was also very well presented.
All entrance roads were treated by good practice for the preservation of wildlife and verges were kept with driver safety in mind.
It is noted that you have an Adopt a Road plan to increase awareness of being conscious of roadside litter.
Well done on succeeding in getting Limerick County Council to resurface a section of road from the Enterprise Centre to the fine Children's Playground.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to revisit Broadford and see the positive changes that have happened in the last few years.
The committee is very proactive and involved in all aspects of life in the village.
You are wished well in the years ahead and continued success in the competition.