

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Broadford - An tÁth Leathan** Ref: **359**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **339**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	52	53
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	48	50
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	34	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	36
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>339</b>

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo.

Thank you for your entry form and your long-term plan. This plan is well structured and provides clear guidance and focus for your work over three years. You have a strong committee, lots of volunteers and support from local community groups businesses and agencies. You have a good understanding of how your actions on the ground help contribute towards achieving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals to which Ireland is committed.

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

Broadford's public house was nicely presented with flower baskets, as was the hairdressers next door. Traditional features such as the post box and pump and telephone box are nicely maintained. When it is not occupied by Kildare GAA supporters, could the telephone box be recommissioned into a nice feature, maybe displaying some wildlife or historical information? The post box still in use at the Mill Pond has the initials GR on it. This links to the reign of King George indicating it could be around 90 years old. Perhaps a little bit of anti-rust paint could be applied here? Your Heritage Officer could provide some advice.

It was nice to see the Green Flag flying, and the festive bunting on display at the school, and at the Church. Both buildings were very nicely presented. Perhaps the school tower could have some wildlife images attached to it or even some swift nest boxes erected here, if there's a history of swifts in the area? In the centre of the village there is a nice red barn with a corrugated iron roof that is one of the older, traditional buildings in the village. It would be good to maintain this if possible.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The roadside picnic area was nicely managed is a lovely focal point for the village. The new recycled plastic benches looked well. We admired The Garden of Remembrance with flags and sculptures nicely positioned. There were some nice perennials in the public seating area and picnic area and the bins were clean and well maintained. Perhaps remove some of the non-native from this area, such as cordylines, and replace with more perennials that would benefit pollinators in line with your cute pollinator-friendly display? The two plastic tubs sitting either side of the bench in the picnic area looked out of place and should be removed. Be careful not to add to many different styles of sculptures here as they could clash as it is not a big area. The

entrance into the Eco Park was a little bit overgrown and will need some cutting back so the path can be used. The path is a lovely link to the chapel. The entrance arch by the picnic tables had some lovely smelling honeysuckle. Have you many residents in your bug hotel?

The southern end of Bradford at the Mill Pond has a lovely outdoor area. Your adjudicator was surprised that you manage nearly 3 miles of an area. It's important to concentrate your efforts on projects that make an impact, otherwise you could run out of energy. We recommend that the small, wooden edged bed across the road at the Mill Pond is too low to be noticed and should be reverted to grass.

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

Approach roads into Broadford have some lovely mature oak and chestnut trees which are a great legacy to you from previous generations. A nice project could be for children to collect seeds/acorns and they could be planted and eventually offered for sale as saplings to your numerous Facebook followers.

How wonderful to see the videos of the long-eared owls on your Facebook page. Their calls are easily remembered, as they sound like a squeaky gate! Have you organised an evening bat walk? The Mill Pond might be an ideal place to run such an event during Heritage Week.

Wire fencing opposite Ballynadrumny Cemetery could be planted up with hawthorns and other native plants. There are some small stands of trees here already. By linking all these together you could form a lovely wildlife corridor here.

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

It was lovely to see the small vegetable patches and raised beds at the school. Hopefully this helps further understanding of food miles and appreciation of the taste and enjoyment that comes from home gardening. Is there cycling parking at the school?

Your proposed Park n Ride is commended. Are there any places to hot-desk in the community? This could be a great amenity as hybrid working is more popular.

Your bottle bank / recycling area is used by many, and it was great to read in your entry details of the tonnage is collected from here. We would recommend that the sign here from Kildare County Council is replaced, as it is bent and grubby. This area could be enhanced with some nicely positioned planters. On adjudication there was quite a lot of debris in front of the banks. However you have mentioned in your entry form that this is one of the areas that you regularly target, and you supplied photos of it looking wonderful, so well done.

Points for sustainability as you have used an old metal bed in the middle of a flower bed as part of your pollinator display - there are some clever arty people in Bradford.

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

Your freshly painted boundary walls looked very well on adjudication day. There were two Community Alert signs which were tired and it's suggested these are removed. Several dirty and faded protest signs also need to be removed from places in the village. The telegraph post opposite the school had an old circus sign in place. This is quite a common problem outside school buildings which are targeted for publicity purposes for shows.

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

There is good continuity of pavement from the bottle banks, across the dual carriageway until you enter the village. However the pavement disappears for a short stretch in the village and there is no clear pedestrian route in front of the public house. The road surface is not in great condition. Once repaired, better road markings could help define where to walk. Replacement kerb stones along the road in the centre of the village would also help demarcate the roadside boundaries.

The homes in Millrace Lawn were nicely presented with freshly painted walls and new pavements. Have dinners improved in Millrace Lawn as residents have lots of free herbs for flavouring from their communal herb garden? Homes appeared to have fires burning in the summer so perhaps they are heated with solid fuel? Have you worked to try and obtain energy saving grants and upgrades for residents? The SEAI has information on community grants available.

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

The wooden golf statue raised a smile. With 3 public seating areas and a large expanse of grass this area has great potential for biodiversity. It is suggested that even small patches are allowed to grow and be cut on a 6-week rotation as per advice available at [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)

Turning south into Broadford off the main road, at Ballinadrimna, the area is perhaps a little too tightly mown. Some of the grass area could be allowed to grow longer. The nearby electricity yard is partially screened with laurel. You are encouraged to plant more hedging here to further screen this with e.g. ceanothus.

The 80 km speed limit exit signs out of the village, could do with some cleaning to remove some of the algae from

the area.

**Concluding Remarks:**

Congratulations on your work. It is humbling to read how your 27 years involvement with this competition has motivated and bonded your community. Thanks to all your volunteers who have helped over the last 12 months. It was a pleasure to adjudicate and explore Broadford.