Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Broadford - An tÁth Leathan**	Ref:	**359**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**404**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**27/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	59	61
Streetscape & Public Places	80	52	54
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	58	60
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	43	45
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	26	28
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	70	72
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	39	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	43
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**388**	**404**

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

Fáilte go Comórtas Bailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2026. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur n-iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh as an obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur gceantar go dtí seo - guíonn muid gach rath oraibh in bhur dtionscadail amach anseo.

You are very welcome back to the National Tidy Towns Competition, congratulations on your silver medal win in 2025.

Broadford has been a long time entrant in the competition, for 28 years. National Tidy Towns Competition thanks you for your current submission. It is fully understood that putting an entry together for any community requires a lot of effort. We particularly appreciate that as requested you have reduced the size of your submission and you have followed the requested words requirement.

For 2026, Broadford Area Residents Association has entered into Category B Village population between 201 and 1000.
Your current active committee of 10 members and 25 volunteers work regularly on your projects. You are also supported by CE workers in helping keep your village in good condition.

You have highlighted that many organisations, groups and local businesses have contributed to the Broadford submission. There is widespread participation of the community in the work of the tidy towns.
Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Broadford identified the support and assistance of Kildare County Council - the high standard achieved by the county's Tidy Towns family both in the past and in 2026 are a testament to the ongoing commitment and energy of the County Council.

You have a very strong communications strategy that uses a range of traditional and social media, to publicise all the work that you are carrying out to your community.

In particular you have engaged with the pupils, teachers and parents of Broadford National School who have helped out with your projects, especially the ECO Park project.

In addition to the written content, the number and quality of the photographs included in your submission is excellent and was of great help to the adjudicator.
You have also attached your Community Action Plan 2025-2030 which usefully cross-references your annotated Map which also forms part of your submission.

It is very encouraging that amongst other benefits, you feel that your participation in the Tidy Towns competition has motivated the Broadford community to complete projects - a project only counts when it is completed. Well done.

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

Broadford is a typical ribbon development with the main area running from the R148 intersection with the L1002 local road at Ballinadrumna at the old council yard and the Ballinadrimna Graveyard over the M4 overpass, past the well presented Broadford House and 2-storey stone faced houses, including the adjoining hair salon, through to the village at the school, church and graveyard and then on to the Millrace Lawns housing estate.
The village is very well spread out.
The St. Mary's Church building remains one of your landmark buildings and it's neighbour is the single storey Scoil Maighdine Mhuire Broadford National School and the Parish Centre office on the other side of the road, together with some housing lining the main road. The church and the school both have very generous grounds.
The exterior and interior of the church including the stained glass and exposed roof structure are impressive.
The graveyard has provision for car-parking to the front of the site.
On the day of the visit, road works were underway with tactile paving and works to the paths at the school and church being installed.
Your group has completed painting and maintenance work to the walls, gates and the many benches placed throughout the village and surrounds.
You have an abundance of eye-catching street furniture and features - the unique golf sculpture at Ballinadrumna, the brightly coloured water pump and post box, and the refurbished telephone box being used to showcase your Tidy Towns trophies, and the eagle sculpture, bog oak sculpture, St. Brigid's Cross and 1916 proclamation stone and flag poles at the Garden of Remembrance being good examples.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The various locations throughout the village are very well presented particularly the following : the Ballinadrumna green space and Ballinadrumna Old Graveyard, the approach road verges, the especially striking Garden of Rememberance, the Eco Park, the graveyard across the road, and also the planting to the front of the school, and the church grounds. The green space at Millrace Lawns are also excellent. You have demonstrated great expertise by your choice of planting throughout the year.
Last year's adjudicator suggested that the number of planters at the church might be reduced but you have retained the 4 planters at the main entrance.
As your submission highlights, the numerous planters distributed throughout Broadford are all flowering and well maintained by Broadford Tidy Towns group and you have also acknowledged the support of the local nurseries and garden centres.
Your attention to planting wildflowers and recycled bluebells and native tree saplings so as to provide for our pollintator populations is very welcome.
As you appreciated, native wildflowers help support thriving pollinator population. Once planted, native wildflowers do the necessary work.
You have also included in your action plan a commitment to designate no-mow areas with neatly cut pathways so as to balance a tidy appearance with the greater environmental sustainability that no mow areas bring. Research shows that longer grass supports beetles, spiders, and butterflies with the knock-on effect of increased pollination and better ecosystems for birdlife.
Thank you for the work in keeping all the green spaces distributed through your town so well maintained and attractive for all.

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

The increased importance of Nature and Biodiversity is recognised in the increased scoring for this category for the 2026 Tidy Towns competition.
Your current entry accurately identifie the Eco Park as the centre of nature and biodiversity in Broadford, it has everything that any village would hope for from this woodland relatively close to the centre of Broadford.
The Eco Park has a winning combination of woodlands, trails, uncut wild pollinator-friendly areas, bug hotel and bat boxes and well maintained and paths, all available so as to encourage use of this fantastic community facility.
There are not too many woodlands that are host to such diversity of trees, plant life, birdlife and wildlife.
Congratulations on spotting the long-eared owl, the very rare red squirrel and a hedgehog, all evidence of a thriving biodiversity.
It is very encouraging that the Eco Park has become a centre for learning and increasing awareness of nature for all including younger people
The other nature and biodiversity highlight is the Broadford B&B at the Garden of Rememberance, together with the very well presented bird feed house - as you put it some crowd of B's to have in one spot! No booking required. From your planting and seen on site you have understood that there are no quick fixes for bee hotels and the like, it is absolutely necessary to have sufficient and appropriate food for the bees, bugs and beetles in close proximity to the hotel and the B&B.
The wildflower meadow at the back of the church should be revisited.
You have included in your submission confirmation that you are planning to promote your neighbourhood walk project at the end of the Kill Bog Road - you have already had an initial site visit from an environmental consultant early this year and you have initiated contact with Coillte for support on this project. This is a very ambitious project but it will be a fantastic public amenity when delivered - it is great to see such imagination and initiative and energy in your community.
Broadford is very well located in terms of being a largely rural area with relatively easy immediate access to various

natural environments and it appears that your community fully appreciates it's good fortune.

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

The increased importance of Sustainability for all communities is recognised in the increased scoring for this category for the 2026 Tidy Towns competition.
Most groups are very active in encouraging community members to make their area more sustainable by their actions.
Broadford has identified 3 key separate actions which have been undertaken to make their community more sustainable.
You have been proactive in encouraging your community to reduce waste and encourage recycling by producing and distributing a leaflet to the residents of Broadford. This innovative action was followed up by 2 clothes collections which judging by the photos included in your submission were very successful with the added bonus of raising necessary funds for local projects.
Water is the starting point for all of nature, it keeps us alive and yet it is often undervalued and taken for granted. You have installed 3 rainwater storage harvesting stations with a combined capacity of 4000 litres, a valuable source of water for future use when the inevitably more frequent dry spells arrive. There may also be a water butt installed to the rear of the church which you have not identified in your submission, the 4000 litres might well be an understatement. BARA's association with the Local Authority Waters Programme is also very welcome. You have also understood that the communication of information is key to the design and implementation of any community sustainability programme.
You have also mentioned the placing of a composter in the Eco Park which takes grass cuttings, fallen leaves, fruit and vegetable waste and flower cuttings. You intend also to encourage residents to begin their own compost bin. It was noted that the compost bin in the school grounds at the yew tree does not appear to be in use but that might just be because of the school summer holidays - hopefully that compost bin will be re-started.
Broadford has made a very good start on the sustainability journey - you might be interested in other opportunities to help achieve the 2030 Goal of cutting national emissions substantially under binding EU and Irish laws, for example by looking at generating more power from clean, renewable sources like solar power (one of the Millrace Lawns bungalows has already installed roof panels) or by expanding active and public travel by building bike lanes, and promoting the use of electric vehicles.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

BARA Tidy Towns volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council have worked hard through the year so that Broadford has a high standard of tidiness and litter control throughout the village and surrounds.
It is encouraging to see that you place the safety of all as a primary consideration, you have viz jackets and slow down signage in place while you are out and about. Please continue to stay visible and please stay safe.
Along with many other Tidy Towns groups, you have taken part in the joint clean up of the Carbury Bog - well done here - the photographic evidence confirms the volume of dumping and fly tipping and also confirms the effectiveness of your work.
You have noted that there has been some reduction in plastic bottles and cans being littered since the introduction of the Re-turn deposit return scheme in 2024. The scourge of disposable coffee cups (over 200 million per year in Ireland) is regularly highlighted but the dumping of scratchcards has not yet been mentioned. Thank you to your chairman bringing these particular issues to the local media, well done.
It was noted that the recycling facility at Ballinadruma was clear and accessible and there was no fly tipping or dumping seen on the day of inspection.
Your work on painting of walls, gates and benches and your cleaning of signs were all evident, thank you to all who have worked with you during the year.

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

The residents and community of Broadford have maintained and kept their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level.
While most of the homes in Broadford are single one-off houses, the Millrace Lawns is an exceptional estate development with most of the homes having very well maintained frontage with colourful gardens, some with flower boxes and hanging baskets.
The estate has good tree cover with a number of mature mountain ash trees bearing full loads of colourful berries on the day of inspection.
The expansive green space to the front of the estate might provide opportunity for residents to plant some pollinator friendly plants instead of using so many planters,
By using ground planting rather than planters, roots can grow deep and wide without any walls blocking them, creating stronger and larger plants. The larger volume of earth offered by ground planting acts like a giant sponge, meaning you do not have to water as often compared to watering fast-drying plants in pots.
As mentioned in last year's adjudication report the entrance stone and planting surrounds to Millrace Lawns is excellent.

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

The approach roads into Broadford from the R148 are overall very clean, with clear signage and markings and well maintained.

The presence of a bus-stop on the main road indicates that there is a local bus-service for the area - hopefully the second bus-stop will be in place soon.

The car park area to the graveyard was very tidy and litter free on the day of the inspection. Similarly the parking area at the Ballinadruma recycling centre was clear.

Traffic calming measures are in place or as mentioned previously it looked like provision for a new pedestrian crossing was under way at the school.

All approaches had neatly trimmed grass verges and well maintained hedgerows. A lot of excellent work has been completed including planting and maintenance.

The general condition of roads and paths was excellent and it was a pleasure to walk around the community.

Concluding Remarks:

The Broadford Mission Statement calls for “the development of an environmentally sound, visually attractive community through the participation of all age groups, for the benefit of present and future generations.”

This adjudicator is very happy to confirm that the BARA Tidy Towns by their work and effort are living up to the aims of their mission statement.

It has been a pleasure to visit your village and best of luck with your plans for the future.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.