

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LISDOONVARNA**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	178	178

Lisdoonvarna, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning your completed entry form and excellent street map. The accompanying development plan for 1997-2000 was helpful and it is good to learn of your intentions to liaise with other agencies in the pursuit of improvements to Lisdoonvarna. It is accepted that many of the requirements are far beyond the scope of a ten member Tidy Towns Committee, but you have an inordinate amount of dereliction and unoccupied houses that will need to be tackled in the long-term if you are to progress. You might also consider contacting the Clare County Council in the hope of getting an improvements plan commissioned similar to those prepared for other towns and villages in the country. Such a plan would identify phased improvements in and around the town.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Large hotels, especially on the approach roads are dominating the towns physical appearance. It must be said that these are well kept and well presented environmentally. Some of the older buildings in town are badly in need of improved presentation and some are unoccupied and heading for dereliction. The emphasis for building in Lisdoonvarna should be on infill development as the town will not look its best until these problems, outlined back through the years, are addressed. There are some very well presented shopfronts and Meg Maguires and The Royal Spa are excellent. The newly built Burmah Filling Station is excellent and has some attractive landscaping and good forecourt surface. However, there are now too many signs on this building. The Public Toilet near the Spa Wells and the adjacent buildings are quite ugly. St. Brackans G.A.A. complex is in need of some landscaping and has never been really completed. The Car Park adjacent is well laid out and well maintained.

LANDSCAPING

The square is now your strong point and the excellent display of flowers is commendable. Some of the newly planted trees appear to be failing and if they die off they should be replaced. The flower displays at the various entry points to the town help to project a welcoming image but some are in need of improved presentation. The many window boxes, hanging baskets and flower tubs all combine to add colour to the town. Most of the approach roads are endowed with an attractive display of wild flowers. But you must also balance the excessive overgrowth by trimming the hedges as appropriate. There is an excellent piece of landscaping at the corner of the entrance to the cluster of houses on the Kilfenora approach.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The suggestion made last year still holds and you should consider

a schools project in association with school management to help earn you extra marks in this section.

LITTER CONTROL

Perhaps you are unlucky with a Monday adjudication but a good deal of litter was visible throughout the town. Many litter bins were overflowing and in general the town was far from being litter free - even the well kept square had small quantities of litter.

TIDINESS

Essentially there has been no improvement since last year and the many derelict sites already referred to are causing untidiness. Newly developed car parks i.e. the public car park and the Smoke Room Car Park are well presented and are protecting your marks in this section. The Enterprise Centre and in particular the forecourt and unoccupied offices are quite untidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estate near Kincora House is in need of improvement. In particular, the road up to the small number of houses on the hill is really sub standard. There is also a weakness with badly kept boundary walls in this estate. New houses especially those on the approach roads are very well presented and many have excellent landscaped gardens. Residential property in the town core is well presented. Use your efforts now to promote the idea of more infill development with residential accommodation on a year round basis.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

For the most part road works are good. Some footpaths need upgrading in the town centre. Many uncared for open spaces between houses and commercial buildings are exposing untidy side and rear entrances. Farm gates can be made quite attractive by freshly painting with a strong colour - no progress on the two rusty gates beside J. P. Burke.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town has some unique characteristics and the many old buildings in particular give it a special image. Your challenge now is to win back some of the character that has been lost through dereliction and untidiness. Lisdoonvarna has potential to be a much higher scorer in this competition.