

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LUCAN**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-2000

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2000 | Mark Awarded 1999 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 35 | 35 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 30 | 27 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 30 | 27 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 22 | 23 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 27 | 26 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 27 | 25 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 215 | 206 |

Lucan, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

While we understand the difficulties in presenting a three to five year plan when your town is changing so much in terms of population we would encourage you once again this year to prepare one in time for next years competition. Perhaps it is because of such change that such a plan is needed. Again this year we found your approach to be very structured and your ability to involve so many residents associations is to be commended, involvement by the whole community is the way to truly progress in the years to come. We also commend your work in involving school children. Their help next year will certainly yield results. Even with such huge population growth Lucan village still feels like a community and your work certainly contributes towards that.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment around the village square is for the most part very well maintained. It is particularly noteworthy the exceptional amount of work the publicans do in Lucan to maintain their premises. As mentioned in last years report and as you have identified yourself it is a shame that the old schoolhouse building remains derelict as it would be an excellent link between the old and the new in the heart of the village. Your certificate of merit scheme is an excellent idea and we noticed many premises proudly displaying their certificates on the day of adjudication. Some premises around the village square which you might consider for next year include Courtneys Pub, AIB, Kennys Bar, Centra and the Lucan Inn. Moving away from the heart of the village new additions such as La Banca and The Mad Apple Café are also very welcome. The Medical Hall, Fonetix, An Post, Robins Nest and Dermot P. Coyne also looked very well. Carrols Victuallers is unsightly and hopefully will be redeveloped in time for next year's competition. The efforts made to the Garda Station were also noted. The Village Court is also a pleasing addition but do watch for graffiti in this area.

LANDSCAPING

Your on-going work with the local residential groups continues to show excellent results. The area beside Lucan Heights is very well maintained as is the area outside Vesey Park . The Statoil Garage would benefit from the replacement of the plants in front of the garage. The landscaping surrounding the welcome stones is very nicely done with the exception of the stone at Weirview. Also in this area the area in front of the Welcome to Fingal sign is very much in need of some landscaping given its prominent

location at the end of the bridge. While it can be difficult being at the border of two Local Authorities we would encourage you to give attention to this area for next year. The area opposite Roselawn could do with some litter and kerb control to give a pleasing approach to Lucan village. Once again we would reiterate the need to wash the paving stones surrounding the landscaped area at the centre of the village as this takes from what is otherwise a delightful area with appropriate and pleasant landscaping and tree planting. We appreciate your difficulties in being unable to develop areas due to planning applications.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We noted with pleasure the growing population of ducks in Lucan, however we would draw your attention to the area of the river beside Toolans Bookmakers where there was a significant amount of dumping. This will continue to detract from your other work on the river. Your continued maintenance of hedgerows in an environmentally friendly manner is to be commended.

LITTER CONTROL

Your continued efforts against litter are noted but you face a difficult task. The addition of new bins certainly helps the situation but there are still some blackspots for litter, for example, the approach road from Leixlip and on the road opposite Willo's B&B. The area outside the Roma Takeaway has significantly improved since last year but do watch out for the area around the village green area generally for cigarette butts gathering at the kerbs, litter gathering around the bins and litter gathering at the base of trees in the landscaped area. With such a growing population it is difficult to keep litter under control but do continue with your efforts.

TIDINESS

Lucan is generally quite a tidy village but the ever continuing building works give an untidy appearance to the village. Graffiti seems to be an ever growing problem, for example, beside Brenda's Bistro, Esker Cemetery and bins close to Lucan sorting office. The railings and walls surrounding Esker Cemetery could also do with some attention. The main sign about Lucan in the Village Square could do with some attention. As the primary focus for visitors to Lucan it would be great to see it kept graffiti free. Continue to watch out for weeds growing at the kerbs on the approach roads to the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Congratulations on your continuing work with the Residents Associations in the area. The Tidy Districts competition is

again proving successful in encouraging these areas to maintain tidy environments. Mount Gandon, Vesey Park and Cherbury Park Road had attractive entrances. Esker Lawns and Ardeevin Drive would benefit from some kerb control but were otherwise well presented. Lucan Heights and Brookvale were also very attractive with just some sporadic litter marring what was otherwise a nice residential area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The new entrance stones to Lucan are a wonderful addition to the village and generally we found the approach roads to be clean and tidy. Some of the approach roads are temporarily messy due to the building works going on and while we appreciate that this is unavoidable it does take from your efforts. Do watch out for litter on the approach road from Leixlip and also on the approach road by the Weir. Your work on the approach roads has been excellent during the year and the flower displays coming from the dual carriageway are particularly attractive.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Lucan is a lovely village with an ever growing population and you are to be commended in keeping a village green at the core of this development. Your work is certainly starting to show benefits and movements at the national level regarding litter will certainly benefit you in the year to come. We look forward to seeing further developments next year.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/00)

It is some years since this adjudicator last had the pleasure of officially visiting Lucan. The village has certainly grown at an unprecedented rate but you are most fortunate having such a tightly enclosed village centre in the physical or geometric sense. Many other villages in a similar situation have lost control of their core. As previously noted there are several new interventions to the old village centre which are most apt. It is a pity that the prominent old school house remains a problem. A great contrast between the old and new parts of Lucan is the quality of road surfacing; the older roads are very poor. Litter was not a significant problem on the second adjudication day - a commendable achievement! There is scope for the landscaping of numerous incidental open spaces, also of expansive forecourts and yards which tend to be untidy. Mature trees are an integral part of Lucan and so it is befitting that so much planting has been carried out in newer areas; nonetheless there is further scope such as on the wide footpaths on the initial stretch of the old Dublin approach.

