

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LAHINCH**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	--
The Built Environment	40	25	--
Landscaping	40	26	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	--
Litter Control	40	27	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	18	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	--
General Impression	10	7	--
TOTAL MARK	300	193	--

Lahinch, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning completed entry form and welcome back to the competition after a break of some years. No doubt the new committee will bring fresh vigour and commitment to the competition. No doubt also, due credit is given to the former committee for the various past developments that are currently maturing and enhancing the town. This adjudicator, who had not visited Lahinch for some time found great changes, both in structure and outline. It would serve one well to travel up the high road by Fairways Apartments and oversee the expansion of Lahinch that has taken place in recent years. Indeed, you now have several physical entities in and around the town, apart from the core Lahinch itself. This presents you with great challenges to link the various areas into a cohesive unit. This will take time and good forward planning by you in the Tidy Towns, by the various agencies and in particular by the community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard of presentation has improved significantly in recent years and the public buildings in particular looked well. The town centre was looking really well on adjudication day with a large number of visitors in Mid July. Premises that stood out in presentation include Kenny, Mr Eamonn's Cashmere, Mrs O'Brien's Kitchen and Donal O'Loughlin. The treatment of the newly developed corner stores at Mr Eamonn's is particularly good. You should further encourage the development of traditional type shopfronts, especially the smaller type stores. So, in general you are moving in the right direction and there seems to be an awareness of the importance of well presented commercial premises.

LANDSCAPING

The treatment of welcome signs on the approach roads is quite effective. The attractive flower display on the Milltown Malbay approach should be extended to other areas. You also need a sign on this approach. The junction at the Cliffs of Moher road is very good and projects a good image for the town. The town centre is well served by both community and individual effort and many hotels and other commercial owners have worked hard to give colour to their premises by floral displays.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have great opportunities to promote and encourage

increased interest in wildlife in and around Lahinch. The erection of illustrated display boards highlighting the local wildlife species would be an added tourist attraction for the area. Consult your nearest I.W.C. Officer and seek advice.

LITTER CONTROL

This was the most satisfying aspect of the adjudication. The town had very little litter in evidence despite the large numbers. It was good to witness Seaworld forecourt free of litter and most other pleasure areas also. The main street was litter free and the only problem areas relate to some litter being discarded over the low sea wall on the road to Milltown Malbay.

TIDINESS

Your problems here relate to unattended open spaces, some unoccupied houses, a litter dereliction and the large area of wasteland opposite the Shamrock Apartments. The Milltown Malbay approach is overgrown and not sharing the same standard as the Ennistymon and Cliffs of Moher approach. Some of the houses facing the promenade also need attention – but fresh painting here would improve the appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The huge upsurge in accommodation development in and around Lahinch makes it difficult to assess the overall standard in this section. The inordinate imbalance between all year round residents and holiday homes means you have an inconsistency in terms of maintenance. Currently, the great wave of development is bringing about change on an almost daily basis. However, this will settle in due course and then you need to have a plan in place that will offer cohesion for the area in the years ahead. You need to consult the County Council planners who will help your formulate thinking in this respect. The individual effort in presenting houses to a high standard is most commendable and it is hoped this standard will be maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road structure in Lahinch has improved and parking spaces, signage and marked out areas are well presented. The many side lane accesses to the seafront need to be kept to a high standard because of their constant usage. You have scored well in this section but you have a couple of problem areas that need attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town looked attractive on adjudication day, which was

favoured with good sunshine and blue skies. Your traffic discipline is good and avoids frustration. Your challenge now as a new committee is to draft a three year plan that will reflect your vision for an improved Lahinch over the coming years. You are fully aware of the town centres importance for commercial trading and also the importance of the seafront as a magnet for your many visitors. You will need to look positively on the more than normal number of holiday homes and make sure you avoid any dichotomy between all year round residents and holiday home occupants. Good luck and glad to have you back in the competition.