

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lahinch**

Ref: **154**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **201**

Category: **B**

Date: **04/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	
The Built Environment	40	27	
Landscaping	40	28	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	
Litter Control	40	29	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	20	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	201	

Overall Developmental Approach:

We welcome you back to the Tidy Towns competition and hope your renewed efforts will be rewarded. There is no need for this adjudicator to labour the point of a changed Lahinch over recent years. This is now well acknowledged. Your challenge now is to come to terms with the vast new residential developments and try and harness support from the many new residents - seasonal and all year round. Happily, the core Lahinch with one or two exceptions remains attractive and full of character and this is still your great strength going forward. What you need now is a fresh vision and a 3-5 year phased plan that will accommodate the various requirements of environmental enhancement.

The Built Environment:

The towns core and especially the Main Street has improved significantly in recent years. The numerous well presented premises e.g. Bridge Kitchen, Nineteenth Pub, Lahinch Book Shop, The Corner Store, Lahinch Hostel, Atlantic Hotel and in particular the nest of outlets at the Pharmacy Corner. Public buildings are well presented and Seaworld was busy and clean on adjudication day. Beyond Station Road there are a few very interesting outhouses beside the Cloverfield B&B - these should be preserved as they reflect the local traditions of the area. Well done on the presentation of the Garda Station.

Landscaping:

You have a very large area to cover and you have scored well in this section. The many window boxes, hanging baskets and tubs add great colour to the town. You should organise the various residential areas and ideally hold a local competition for these areas. This would involve residents and offer potential to your committee for new recruits. It should be said that work of previous years continues to serve you well, especially the flowering shrubs that give bright bloom.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We refer to the last report of 2000, which suggests that you contact the local I.W.C. Officer and try and stimulate interest in promoting the wildlife of the area. Of course Seaworld is of immense value to this category and you might consider asking Seaworld to sponsor a wildlife promotion of the area.

Litter Control:

The litter control was very good and an inspection of the town and beach found no great evidence of litter problems - so well done.

Tidiness:

Because of the great amount of new developments there is much disruption of sites and this leads to untidiness. Also you have many poorly presented open spaces in need of a clean-up. You also have some dereliction and this should feature on your plan of improvement. Bear in mind the Local Authorities have new powers to compel owners to present their premises to an acceptance state.

Residential Areas:

In many ways there has been an explosion of house building in and around Lahinch and more to come if one looks at the advertising hoardings. The best you can hope for is that estates - large and small will be finished and landscaped to a high standard. Some estates are excellent, but are let down by the appearance of boundary walls and road margins. Many individuals have attractive gardens and contribute to your efforts. Building has been sporadic leading to a lack of consistency in design site layout.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You have a very good road structure, especially in the town centre and in general approach roads are of a high standard. Greater emphasis is now being laid on side streets and laneways now have a high value. Many of these are being developed and this is good as it creates greater use of town space and raises standards. The Golf Club complex is well presented and provides an attractive spectacle on this approach. The 22nd Infantry Battalion compound is showing its age and the signs (in English only) have gone shabby. Ennistymon Approach is your best and much of the margins have well trimmed grass.

General Impression:

A July visit found a bright, clean and busy (traffic in main street is excessive, but unavoidable) town with a great influx of holiday makers. A visit to the outlying areas makes one realise that there is a significant population in Lahinch. Your challenge now is to bring the community with you in your endeavours to enhance the environment and improve the quality of life for the residents and visitors alike. Do consider a 3-5 year plan and good luck in 2004.

