

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Liscarroll**

Ref: **557**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **213**

Category: **B**

Date: **25/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	213	209

Overall Developmental Approach:

The plan 2003 to 2005 submitted with your application form gives a very clear outline of the developments the committee intend to undertake over the coming years. Perhaps, more detail is needed and the approach the committee intends to take to achieve these goals. Each year an assessment can be made of the progress made and the plan adapted accordingly. Very good progress has been made to date and it is clear that the village is developing in a very positive manner. The signage as you enter the village is very good and was a of great help in getting around on the day of adjudication.

The Built Environment:

The castle adds great character to the village and the lighting of this by night would give it extra prominence. Access to the castle is very limited, but if it were possible to have a grass mown path around the periphery, it would make for an excellent amenity. The church, school and garda station look well. The 19th century cottages that are to be preserved will require positive action. There are many corrugated iron roofed buildings within and around the village, particularly along the approach to the community centre. Some of the roofs were being painted during the adjudication visit. Hopefully, the corrugated iron roofed building at the entrance to the castle will be removed, as referred to in the committee's plan. Stone walls are a very prominent feature in the village and good work has been done in restoring them - and even more can be done. The main street shops are looking well with good painting presentation. The post office wall needs attention. Derelict buildings

continue to be a challenge. If this problem cannot be completely resolved in the short-term, they could be treated in a manner that would reduce their negative impact. The old wall within the graveyard is an attractive feature and well retained. The old motor garage looks a little neglected.

Landscaping:

The school and church grounds are well maintained. The old graveyard is tastefully kept without a fussy approach. The village green area beside the castle offers great potential. At present, it is a little neglected with some weeding, cleaning and grass care needed. The pond is not as attractive as it could be, and it was noted that the water level is low - could this be addressed also?. The old building ruins within the village green, towards the castle, need attention. Also, black plastic is appearing through the pebbles. Many gardens along the roadsides contribute greatly to the landscape of the village and the owners are to be congratulated for this. Tree planting is an important part of landscape work. To retain trees in the neighborhood for the next two generations, trees need to be planted for continuity now. A very nice project would be to gain permission to plant trees along the perimeter of the field opposite the school.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The town park could offer potential in this regard. Any local information concerning indigenous wildlife should be compiled, and people informed, perhaps by means of information boards, etc. A project of this kind should involve local school children where possible.

Litter Control:

The system of dividing the town into areas and having people responsible for each is very good. This gives everybody a sense of ownership and strengthens commitment. There is a good level of cleanliness within the village, however, some litter was noted in the village green and along the roadsides, especially by the post office road. Constant vigilance and encouragement is needed to maintain a really high litter-free status

Tidiness:

There is a tidy appearance to the village centre. The dilapidated sites are not helpful in this regard and the new housing being built also contributes to difficulties while building is in progress. All sites should be finished off well before the builders leave the site. Some attention to the iron roofed sheds, which are prominent, will help. The area surrounding the community centre looks very unfinished.

Residential Areas:

New houses within the main street are welcome as they keep life right in the centre of the village. These are attractive. The Rock Spring Estate is well presented. The adjudicator noted that work on stone facing the block wall is in progress and this will be a fine job when completed. The individual houses on the approach roads look well and more are being built, as was noted. Good reinstatement and blending in of new house sites to the surroundings is important. This can be greatly helped by the planting and general landscaping of the new houses

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As noted above, the village signs on entry to the village are very useful in finding all the various areas of the village. The roadside verges of hedgerow and wild plants play an important part of the beauty of the village. These should be trimmed, of course, but in a sensitive way, retaining the variety of natural plants. The road surface in places needs attention, particularly potholes and broken road edges. A footpath alongside the school is badly needed and there are many gaps in footpaths around the village. The old stone cobbles are revealed in places and these could become

an interesting feature. Parking cars with two wheels on the footpath ultimately will damage the paths, as is already happening. This also causes disruption of traffic and accessibility problems for pedestrians. Many of the kerbs on the paths are stone in nature and in any path improvement scheme care should be taken to recycle these.

General Impression:

Liscarroll is a very well tended village. There are lots of initiatives that will improve this village further and with the obvious commitment and determination of the committee, Liscarroll has a very positive future.