

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lislevane**

Ref: **477**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **225**

Category: **A**

Date: **06/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	37
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	225	217

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the beautiful artistic presentation of your submission. This, combined with the before and after photos, gives the adjudicator an excellent idea of how the village is progressing. Your three year plan is very comprehensive and charts a clear course of action under the relevant headings. Keep up your close liaison with the local authority, Bord Fáilte, Muintir na Tíre, FÁS, the local school children, gardai and the I.C.A.

The Built Environment:

The main commercial buildings look very well indeed, including the Post Office, Whelton's and Sexton's. Plastic drinks signs should be removed and replaced with more traditional styled signs. The Statoil Station was very clean, given the nature of its business - this is a good achievement. However, the vertical petrol sign would need cleaning. The floral decoration on commercial buildings certainly does enhance their appearance.

Landscaping:

The water feature, millennium stone, and children's sculpture create a great impression. These along with the well located flower containers help form a very welcoming environment. The cemetery is excellently well tended to and is a credit to all concerned. The current height of the

trees on the pavement beside the graveyard makes passing them quite awkward. This will no doubt improve when they grow higher. The hanging baskets and floral decoration at the ' Fordson tractor ' are very impressive. This tractor is quite a collectors' item in itself, being one of the early Ford Motor Company tractors. The tree planting inside the boundaries on the approach roads is excellent.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildflower garden does not appear as colourful as last year, but, none the less provides a great area for flora and fauna. The presence of bird nesting boxes is noted. These areas are of great interest to the school children as outlined in your submission. I note your plans to investigate the ' Neighbourhood Scheme '. Additional guidance is available in the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland leaflet, entitled ' Developing Community Environmental Projects'. The difficulties with the village green are noted.

Litter Control:

The village involvement in the Muintir na Tíre litter-free roadside competition 2002 and the Inter-Village challenge has paid dividends. This, along with your full community involvement with young and old, all helps to keep on top of litter control.

Tidiness:

Weed growth at kerb sides and base of walls was kept well in check. Grass cuttings from the area with the tractor should possibly be put into a compost heap rather than into the wildflower meadow.

Residential Areas:

The quality of maintenance of private houses and gardens is of the highest standard. Your plans to liaise with residents over colour schemes is very appropriate. Boundary walls, hedgerows and gardens are all very well tended. The adjudicator was particularly impressed with the quality of back areas, gardens and areas at the sides of buildings; these can sometimes be overlooked and this was not the case in Lislevane. The private houses link well with the communal areas and the village itself.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The two main approaches and the two minor side approaches are very well maintained, margins etc. are very neatly trimmed. The new thirty mile and hour speed limit signs are very good and useful additions to the village. The paving near the graveyard and black metal directional sign are very attractive. Your comments in relation to heavy traffic and the road surface are noted. This is something that will need constant monitoring. If replacing the village name signs, ensure any new stone sign is bilingual. The staked trees on the approach road from Clonakilty were very much admired.

General Impression:

There is almost a seamless boundary between the private and public areas of the village as both are maintained to a very high level.

Second Round Adjudication:

Lislevane is an attractive village which was a pleasure to visit on adjudication day. It looked extremely neat and tidy and the small number of buildings were presented to the highest standards. The landscaped areas looked well, although it is important to resist the temptation to "over-prettyfy" by means of excessive floral displays. Permanent planting and tree planting should be promoted to

provide year-round effect, rather than concentrating on seasonal displays. The sculpture of children in the centre of the village was admired, as was the centrally located stone walled graveyard. The maturing trees on the Clonakilty Road looked well, as did the colourful montbretia.