

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lowertown**

Ref: **540**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **149**

Category: **A**

Date: **29/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	
The Built Environment	40	22	
Landscaping	40	20	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	
Litter Control	40	25	
Tidiness	20	11	
Residential Areas	30	16	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	
General Impression	10	5	
TOTAL MARK	300	149	

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Lowertown to the Tidy Towns Competition and you are a most welcome addition to the existing entries in West Cork. Best wishes go to the Committee of 16 and hopefully all their aspirations and plans for the future will be realised.

Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you must prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme. This programme should have the support of the community, local groups other agencies and the County Council. It would therefore guide your Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme will detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan that is updated annually is now an essential aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition.

Do keep in mind that what is required is a simple Plan or document that your Committee will prepare themselves and it should be no longer than 2/3 pages.

The Tidy Towns Handbook has been issued by the Department of the Environment to all Tidy towns Committees. If you do not have one, the Tidy Towns Unit in the Department will be happy to let you have a copy. This is a highly useful document which is a great help both to established Tidy Towns Committees and to all new entrants. It is divided into a series of seven Action Sheets that cover all aspects of the Competition. It might be most useful for your committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook.

The Built Environment:

There is a strong sense of history here and you have quite correctly identified some of the pointers to the historic past of Lowertown that must not be forgotten.

The Church as the main building in the village is well presented but the nettle and weed growth in one corner inside the road boundary wall needs early attention. The nearby Grotto would be improved by painting the railing - perhaps matt black. The old School building must have some community potential. Perhaps for 2004 you can begin to make some enquiries about this and look at potential future uses if the building is available.

Landscaping:

Your work on the Grotto is noted as is your tree planting projects. Year on year it is important to see if there are additional native tree planting possibilities.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Have you considered carrying out a simple local survey of the wildlife and flora to be found in your area? The results of this could be made available to the public through the use of a large illustrated panel that could be located in the car park. You could then make sure that any future tree / shrub planting projects would be developed around the needs of wildlife.

Litter Control:

Your intention to prepare "A tidiness strategic awareness Plan" is welcomed. A lot of traffic passes through Lowertown all year round and litter control may be a problem. However on the day of adjudication litter control was quite good, but some litter was noted on the Ballydehob approach on the left hand side of the road.

Tidiness:

You should try and get permission to have all field gates painted bright colours. As grass at kerbs and banks is cut it is essential that that grass is raked and taken away immediately. It appears that this has not been happening. A large mound of stone was noted on the left hand side on the Ballydehob approach and perhaps this can be discussed with the owner.

Residential Areas:

Private houses are generally well presented but some boundary walls with the main road are in need of re-painting. The use of strong colours in Lowertown is effective.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Banks and verges on approach roads had been cut. However dead grass remains in a number of areas and this detracts from the overall result. Verges and banks need to be trimmed on a regular basis for the best results. Do remember not to cut them too tightly.

General Impression:

There is potential in Lowertown to make progress in the Competition. The Action Plan will be of great help to your Committee in guiding their work. It is far better to have a few key objectives each year and achieve these, rather than many ideas few of which might be implemented. Do consult the Tidy

Towns Handbook referred to above as it is full of ideas and suggestions that will be of interest to you.