

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lismore**

Ref: **172**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **267**

Category: **C**

Date: **08/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	34
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	267	266

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to congratulate you on winning last year the National Award for the Tidiest Small Centre in Ireland – one which was very well deserved. Your overall development approach and your commitment to the improvement of Lismore is admiral. Thank you again for all the information sent this year with your entry form and the map which identified where projects are taking place this year this was most helpful and enabled the adjudicator to appreciate the additional work which had taken place over and above last year. A measure of your achievements is indicated by the support which you are getting from your local community, FÁS, Waterford County Council, various State Agencies and the local commercial interests, clubs and schools. All concerned are to be commended and congratulated.

The Built Environment:

Lismore is very fortunate to be endowed with so many fine buildings both heritage and modern all of which were seen again this year. The Heritage Centre, Church, Library, Community Centre, St Carthage's Cathedral, Schools, Fire Station, Credit Union, Garda Station, Health Centre, the hospital and the public offices on the Tallow Road were all extremely well presented and congratulations to all concerned. The Lismore Hotel and many commercial premises are also being very well maintained. Not unlike last year – others need a coat of paint. On adjudication day the seating around the monument appeared to be broken. Otherwise it is a lovely feature in an ideal situation. The public toilets looked well and are also being well maintained internally. In terms of signposting

it would appear that the bilingual signage and the notice board at the Heritage Centre were not in place on adjudication day. Perhaps they will appear during the summer. The new street lighting is most impressive and is a lovely addition to the heritage aspect of Lismore. The new pathways at Mayfield Road were seen, as was the disabled access to the Church. Walls throughout the town are also being well maintained and the new work at the wall at the Community Centre was noted. The cobbled locking around the seating in The Mall greatly enhances the area. Tremendous work has been done by all concerned.

Landscaping:

Having read through your notes all the new landscaped sites were visited. While most new landscaping provided this year is on a small scale it nevertheless greatly complements what already has been done and the areas to which it has been applied, which, in the normal way, would not take large scale projects. Existing large scale landscaping is being extremely well maintained and was a joy to see again this year. The Millennium Park has developed superbly and will be entered for the Landscape Award again this year. Landscaping on the Cappoquin Road and at the Grotto creates a wonderful impression and certainly depicts to the visitor what has yet to come as far as the rest to the town is concerned. The continuous presentation of hanging baskets, window boxes, tubs of flowers and other floral presentations both at individual households and business premises continues apace and all concerned are to be congratulated.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading were noted as was indeed the absence of the "Duck Signs" on the Cappoquin approach. It is a pity when this happens but it is nice to see that other wildlife projects are taking place and that you have future plans in this respect.

Litter Control:

Every street and side street in Lismore was visited on adjudication day. For a town of its size Lismore was practically litter free – a wonderful achievement for which all concerned are again to be congratulated.

Tidiness:

Again this year the town was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. Extensive house building was noted which lends itself to untidiness but this will pass. It has also been allowed for. In this respect the way that the town was presented reflects greatly on how conscious your residents must be of your position in the Tidy Towns Competition and also, and equally as important, on the preservation of their living environment. Well done to all concerned.

Residential Areas:

All housing estates in the town were visited – both old and new. New estates are at various stages of development and, in this connection, your landscaping at Beech Grove housing was noted. It will be important that your Committee liaises closely with the various building contractors to make sure that when these houses are finally built that they are landscaped properly in line with the Planning Permission which they received. In addition representatives from these estates should be encouraged to join your Committee as soon as possible. The older estates looked well. In some case houses did need refurbishment. This was particularly applicable to the housing estate at the end of Bankfield. Many railings here were in poor condition. In all cases they were practically litter free which is a tremendous boost to your anti-litter efforts. Your comments regarding the Litter Roster were noted and obviously the town is benefiting from this. Some derelict sites remain and, in this connection, it is again suggested that you liaise closely with Waterford County Council who are empowered to take action in such cases.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces and pathways are being well maintained. However the road surface at East Main Street is very uneven and requires attention. Approach roads were very well presented and street furniture is being well looked after.

General Impression:

All concerned with this wonderful effort are to be congratulated. The town and its environs were in pristine condition on adjudication day reflecting at every turn the interests and involvement of your Local Authority, your various other helping groups and, above all, your community who must be thrilled (and rightly so) with the success you have had to date. Keep up this excellent work. Plan carefully with attention to detail as this is what will get you extra marks in the competition over the next few years. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Lismore next year – further improvements to behold.

Second Round Adjudication:

Well presented grass verges and stone walls on the approaches were indicative of the town ahead just as the luxuriant planting opposite the castle entrance gave a foretaste of the gardens within. The Waterford approach must surely be one of the most dramatic approaches to any town. The Millennium Park was admired and the toilets here were commendably clean. The new Community School appeared to have just been completed. The Community Centre carpark was a little disappointing – it would benefit from more planting to supplement the young Birches but of most significance there was litter here! The standard of residential properties was again generally high with much planting making a valuable contribution. The commercial buildings were for the most part well presented but a significant amount would benefit from maintenance in the near future. In particular due to its prominent location the hotel will soon need repainting. Being a heritage town it is important that timber up and down sash windows be retained; it is quite possible to render them draught proof nowadays. It was noted that East Main Street had been resurfaced during the summer. At your level in the competition, to make further progress you must concentrate on untidy yards (particularly above East Main Street) and those street building needing maintenance.