

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lahinch**

Ref: **372**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **208**

Category: **B**

Date: **18/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	37
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	208	201

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for receipt of a three year plan as requested in last years report. A document such as this is essential in order to focus on priorities. Thank you also for well completed entry form, map and artists impression of the new seafront development where the old public toilets were situated. We note that you work in co-operation with Clare County Council, Lahinch Chamber of Commerce and Lahinch Community Council. This partnership approach is, of course, essential in order to see the projects outlined in your plan come into being. It is also essential that all the local community be aware of these plans and are encouraged to become involved in your endeavours. In other towns and villages a simple newsheet has helped in getting the information out.

The Built Environment:

Your main project here is the new development on the promenade and this should certainly enhance this area and provide worthwhile amenity facilities. Premises already in situ such as Sea World, the Golf Club, the Church and the School were all well presented on the day of adjudication. As the old public toilets are permanently out of order it would seem that the public use the Sea World facilities at present. These were well kept on the day of adjudication and the signed cleaning rota displayed on the back of the door appeared to be working. It was noted that what used to be the the old

Aberdeen Arms Hotel was closed but the other Hotels and Hostels were well maintained. Most business premises in and around the town were also well presented with some exceptions such as CENTRA which needed some refurbishment. Also, there are a number of vacant and derelict premises quite prominent in the town (two on the main street) and a solution must be sought in the long term for this problem.

Landscaping:

The attractive landscaping at the Liscannor junction was noted as was the well landscaped entrance to one of the new housing estates on the Miltown Malbay road. The beach, where bathers and surfers were enjoying themselves, is a wonderful amenity. However, the promenade, because the sea is not visible unless you actually walk by the seafront presents a rather stark and bare appearance. We assume that this is where Arzon Park is to be relocated and when this happens it will alleviate the situation. Also, a well developed and maintained picnic area should assist. The use of colourful hanging baskets throughout the town was admired. Well done to the Lahinch Chamber of Commerce for supplying flowers and bulbs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have a broad canvas on which to develop this theme. You mention many wading birds on the beach and at the river estuary. Display boards telling people about these birds may be a way to get started.

Litter Control:

Litter was not much in evidence on the day of adjudication except on the Ennis approach where there were a number of papers blowing around the road. However, this seemed like a once off happening. Obtaining the co-operation of fast food outlets and Pubs as mentioned on your entry form is essential to keeping Lahinch litter free.

Tidiness:

Because of quite an amount of disruptive development work taking place in Lahinch the town did not present a very tidy appearance. Developers should be asked to leave all sites neat and tidy when work is finalised. On the approach roads there were kerbs with weeds (these had been sprayed on the Ennis approach but the brown weeds were still visible – weeds and grass at wall bases should be removed before spraying early in the season). Again your partnership approach in organising a clean up of town and beach twice yearly in association with Lahinch Seaworld, Lahinch National School and Clare County Council is commendable.

Residential Areas:

Residential housing on the approach roads and nearer the town were looking well, including those in some of the new estates. More houses are still being built and it would be good to encourage any new year round residents to join with you in your endeavours.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The linking lanes from the main street to the sea front were quite well maintained and are areas that could become very attractive in the years ahead. Of the approach roads, the Ennis approach is best maintained and landscaped. Directional signage throughout the town was of a reasonable standard.

General Impression:

Lahinch has taken the first steps on an ambitious journey towards further developing and enhancing the town and surrounds. Perseverance at this task is necessary to accomplish your aims and we wish you well in your efforts.