

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lucan**

Ref: **187**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **232**

Category: **F**

Date: **22/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	232	228

Overall Developmental Approach:

Lucan Tidy towns committee are thanked for the application into this years competition. However, it is important that a 3 - 5 year development plan be submitted with the application in future years as it allows the adjudicator to see the work that is being done, the future plans for the area and also ensures that the community are aware of the plans to develop the area. The continued work with South Dublin County Council parks and litter warden sections should be commended and kept going. All co-operation with statutory bodies is encouraged. The tidy towns committee may also consider getting other local community groups involved in the Tidy Towns competition and the schools should be encouraged to become involved in the project on an annual basis.

The Built Environment:

Lucan is a lovely town and overall is well maintained. As the town is divided in two by a main "motorway" the tidy towns committee should be congratulated on the work done to help keep the area as one community.

Lucan is an extremely busy town with a large amount of traffic through the main street area, however the flow of traffic around the main park in the centre of the town works well with the one way system. The Park in the centre of the town is a charming feature and acts as a central focal point for the town. The stone walls surrounding the park area are lovely, however some maintenance is required at the base of the wall where weeds were evident. The park itself was well maintained, with plenty of shrubs and trees planted. The ducks on the river provide an area of

interest, particularly for small children. Unfortunately both information panels (the one at the entrance to the park and nearly opposite the AIB) were both subject to graffiti which made them difficult to read. Many of the shops in the area were well maintained and had nice flower arrangements or shrubs outside which looked well. Paddy Kennys Bar, Courtneys pub, Pat Toolans and La Bacna all looked well on the day of adjudication, however Carrolls (butcher shop) was derelict and run down looking, with the outside of the building being used as a poster site which was unsightly. Many of the commercial units along Main street were well maintained, as were the houses opposite the Italian Ambassadors residence. The Garda station in the town is a very attractive building and takes prominence in the town; there are lovely trees and shrubs planted in front of the station, however the Garda sign was difficult to see as it was mostly covered by a tree. The main shopping centre area (Superquinn) was well maintained and well signposted. Maintaining both of these separate areas, the shopping complex, sports ground, school as one with the town must prove to be difficult as the area is divided by the main road. The introduction of the Welcome to Lucan sign at the roundabout at the shopping complex helps establish a boundary for the area. A pedestrian footbridge across the main road would link one area with the other, which though a huge project could be looked into for the future.

Landscaping:

Lucan has the benefit of having a small park area in the centre of the town which enhances the overall look of this busy town. The park was nicely maintained with a wide variety of shrubs and trees within the area. The community should be congratulated on how well the park looked. The landscaped area as you turn off the main road heading towards Lucan village is nicely maintained and looked well on the day of adjudication. Some of the approach roads could benefit from some kerb maintenance, mainly the Main road and Adamstown road. The Roundabout at Superquinn was nicely landscaped, with a nice array of flowers and shrubs. Some nice landscaping was evident on the old Lucan road which was being tended to on the day of adjudication.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Lucan has great potential to expand the wildlife and natural amenities in the area. As the River Liffey runs through the village this could be expanded to incorporate some nice walk ways which would include information on the area. The parks, Vesey park and Griffin park provide the community of Lucan with plenty of options for walks and wildlife spotting. The ducks on the river in the centre of Lucan area a unique feature of the town and it was lovely to see some children get great joy out of them on the day of adjudication. Further expansion of the wildlife in the area would be encouraged.

Litter Control:

The continuous clean ups and encouraging local businesses to maintain their areas is a good initiative to get the entire community aware of the importance of litter control. This seems to have paid off as there was little evidence of litter on the day of adjudication. Small amount of litter was evident in the park in the centre of the town, however on the whole, the community should be congratulated on their efforts to eradicate litter from the area.

Tidiness:

Overall Lucan was well maintained, however certain areas gave an untidy look to the town. Carrolls butcher shop which was boarded up was being used as a poster site which was unfortunate as it is quite prominent in the town and looked unsightly. Removal of the posters from this area, and some development of it would be encouraged. Some building work was going on in certain areas of the town, which though necessary, do give an untidy feel to the area. The adjudicator looks forward to these building works being completed by next year.

Residential Areas:

There are a large quantity of residential areas within Lucan. Many of the areas are well maintained, with many of them quite mature. Sarsfield close was nicely maintained on the day of adjudication. Woodville Avenue and Woodville Walk were nicely maintained as was Roselawn. It is important to continue the contact with local residents in relation to the up keep of their areas, though many areas were kept well. The more recent housing developments of Willsbrook area and Elmbrook area were nicely maintained also. The community should be congratulated on their continued upkeep of their own residential area, which enhances the area as a whole.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Many of the approach roads, though very busy, were well maintained. The new granite signs - welcome to Lucan in a number of areas are a welcome feature of the area and clarify the boundaries of the area well. The signs are well maintained. Adamstown road, as you approach Lucan centre, is in need of some kerb maintenance along the way. The Old Lucan road, heading out towards the Hermitage Golf course, was well maintained, with a nicely planted area being tended to on the day of adjudication. The grass area along this road was nicely tended to and was bordered by nice wooden pillars. The approach road along main road again had a lovely stone sign welcoming you to Lucan; this was well tended to, though some more attention was required to the side verges.

General Impression:

Lucan is a charming town with many fine qualities. Though extremely busy with a large amount of development in the surrounding area it has managed to maintain a nice rural feel, which is helped by the river running through the centre of the town and the number of parks within the area. Residential areas were well maintained. Lucan are congratulated on their entry into the tidy towns competition and continued work for developing the area is encouraged.