

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lusk**

Ref: **519**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **217**

Category: **C**

Date: **05/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	27	25
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	217	209

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your completed entry form and comprehensive supporting materials. Your efforts are appreciated and they are of great assistance in understanding the difficulties you are experiencing and your plans for the future. The committee seem well organised and have developed good working relationships with Fingal County Council and local businesses. Your efforts to involve local groups and the community and to generate awareness of the Committee's efforts are commendable and innovative; newsletters, postcards and of course the very informative video. Now is a good time to plan future projects and as the number of residents increase in the area, this can be seen as an opportunity to gain support.

The Built Environment:

Lusk is an historic, now suburban, village with a wealth of heritage. It is still undergoing huge development works both in terms of new housing developments and new road structures. The new ring road will greatly benefit the village and cut down on the volume of through traffic. The introduction of cycle paths is welcomed.

Lusk Heritage Centre is a unique feature and was well presented. There is still a problem with some derelict sites that hopefully will be resolved for next year's competition. The sculptural piece is impressive and is a welcome centrepiece for the village. All involved in the restoration of Clay cottage should be commended for their outstanding work which has been included in the heritage award nominations.

Landscaping:

The landscaping and planting on the new roundabouts has improved the overall impression. It is appreciated that the committee are faced with challenges in this section, as there is still so much development work underway. However, it is worth spending time carefully planning landscaping projects for the future. The planting of shrubbery that adds year round effect is welcomed and could be extended. A good tree-planting programme should be initiated for the newly developed housing areas with emphasis on native species.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Lusk has a wonderful variety of wildlife and natural amenities surrounding the village. Rogerstown Estuary is a wonderful and unique feature. In the future, perhaps there could be an information Panel in the village with a map indicating how to get to the estuary, some features, the history of the local land, and the local historic buildings etc. The video highlighted these features very well and it would be a pity if this information were not available to visitors to the area. Joe's Bridge was well presented and the tree-planting was noted.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good on adjudication day with just some incidental litter outside the shops. Well done. The participation of the National School in the Green schools programme is commendable and this can be further extended to include transition year students from the area. Continue to liaise with Fingal County Council regarding the provision of new bins as the population grows it is important to ensure that efforts made to date are maintained. Continue to promote the availability of the facilities at Balleally which are convenient to the village.

Tidiness:

There was an improvement this year on the overall impression of tidiness. The continued development works, housing and roads presents problems and it is only when much of this is complete that you can achieve a 'tidy' impression. The centre of Lusk was well presented and efforts to control weed growth at base of walls and buildings was good and needs to be maintained. Cutting back of hedging, shrubbery is also important.

Residential Areas:

There is now quite a range of types of residences in the Lusk area that were generally presented to a high standard. Many of the new properties have beautiful gardens, well maintained and full of colour. Encourage the establishment of residents associations in many of the new developments as they can set good standards of presentation and support the committees' efforts. You have good communication with residents through your various initiatives and residents should be further encouraged to extend their efforts to areas outside of their properties to raise the overall impression of tidiness.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

It is difficult to adjudicate this section as there is so much development on the verge of completion in Lusk. The new ring round and roundabouts are welcomed as they reduce the heavy flow of traffic. The new cycle path is welcomed. The roads in the new housing estates are improved. Maintain good communication with Fingal County Council as responsibility for the maintenance and green areas transfers to them from the developers.

General Impression:

Lusk is an attractive, suburban village with great potential to do well in this competition in the future. The committee members are obviously greatly committed to preserving the heritage of Lusk and are commended on their continuous projects to record this heritage e.g. village pumps project for future generations and new comers to the area. Lusk should be very proud of their achievements in difficult circumstances. As the major developments are coming to an end we look forward to your progress, with the support of the Council, local business and residents in this competition.