

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lawrencetown**

Ref: **352**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **193**

Category: **A**

Date: **19/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	24
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	25
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	193	189

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you very much for your entry to this year's competition and your map of the town. It is good to see that you are working with Galway County Council, and well done on securing funding for a sculpture piece in the green. There has been noticeable progress in terms of landscaping and other developments. You nominated the gate lodges at Bellevue Gate for a heritage award but unfortunately the location was not indicated on the map so it was a bit difficult to find. I agree with previous adjudicators who advised you to prepare a 3 to 5 year plan to allow you plan your work. This does not have to be a long document - some of the best plans are two to three pages long.

The Built Environment:

The public buildings in Lawrencetown looked very well - the school was neat, the Church and its grounds were very well kept, and the Community Centre was freshly painted. Some derelict properties take away from the overall impression of the built environment, but with a little attention they could actually add to the appearance of the town. In particular the traditional cottages on the upper green could become a valuable feature in themselves if sympathetically restored or repaired. The Foodmarket could do with new signage and being repainted.

Landscaping:

Congratulations on your development of the lower green. The new trees planted on the green will really add to the attractiveness of this focal point of the village over the next few years, and the new paving looks very well. The green will have a more finished look once the phone box and pump are painted. There were some attractive new trees and shrubs at the Community Hall, the housing estate and the upper green. There was also some good planting on pathway leading to Lisheen Cemetary and picnic area which will add to the area as it matures.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As recommended last year, it is a good idea to get children involved in surveying wildlife in the area. The overhanging trees on the approach road from Portumna are a striking feature - perhaps the children could do a project on the type of trees and the wildlife they support.

Litter Control:

There was some litter on the Ballinasloe side of the village, but in general there was very little litter evident. It is important to submit details of your litter control plans with every year's entry, as previous entry forms are not available to the adjudicator, and these activities can earn you extra points.

Tidiness:

Individual premises were tidy, as were the areas outside business premises - well done. There was some discarded fencing and building materials outside the Community Centre but I presume they were associated with the enhancement of the car park? Also there was a skip and building materials outside the 2 cottages on the upper green as work was being carried out. Overall tidiness could be improved by painting the statue outside the Community Centre, and the phone box and pump at the village green.

Residential Areas:

Generally quite good and well maintained. There was a very attractive two story house on the upper green, and some houses in the village centre which were well painted and/or had attractive flower displays which brightened their appearance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road from Ballinalsoe was very good, with neat verges, good landscaping and well maintained footpaths. The area around the Community Centre was particularly good with new surfaces, footpaths and lighting. The approach from Eyrecourt was also well maintained. On the road to Portumna, the entrance to Lisheen Cemetery looked very well with stone walls, gates and stone name plaques. However, the black and white sign for Lawrencetown could do with cleaning, the stone sign should be weeded, and perhaps the building on the left beside the stone name sign could be painted. Otherwise, approach road creates a good impression due to the overhanging trees which lead to the upper green.

General Impression:

Lawrencetown is a unique village that has a lot of potential. Good efforts have been made this year in relation to landscaping and improving roads and streets, however it will be important to address the problem of derelict buildings. As previously recommended, you would benefit from putting a plan in place to help you plan and measure your achievements.

