

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lixnaw**

Ref: **370**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **195**

Category: **B**

Date: **22/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	195	194

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission and details of your activity. As this is only your second year entering you have not yet motivated the community in great numbers. We would strongly recommend that you formulate a development plan that would chart the way forward for a much enhanced Lixnaw. You should contact Kerry Council and other relevant agencies and pour your resources and commitment. We notice an inviting sign at the entrance to the village declaring your commitment to working for Lixnaw and we hope your aspirations will be fulfilled.

The Built Environment:

The town is quite spread out and you have a large area under adjudication. You also have some fine buildings of 19th century vintage. The church, which needs a visit inside to be appreciated has some splendid limestone pillars and some very attractive traditional features. It is your most important building on the main street. Schools are well presented, but there is still room for improved landscaping. This adjudicator made a first visit to the Diarmuid Ó Catháin centre which is a great tribute to a great man and to a great tradition. The hall at the rear was as unexpected as it was revealing. Garda Station is well presented and the adjacent grotto. You have serious problems with many derelict and very poorly presented buildings. Most disappointing was the state of the old railway station: ironically it is prominently signposted but is now a virtual dumping ground. Most centres like Listowel exploit this historic link with the past. We hope these comments will spur some action.

Landscaping:

Approach roads are very overgrown and even the village are obliterated by long grass. You should consider two illustrated FÁILTE signs on the two principal approaches and let them provide a good introduction to the town. You should also plant a series of trees for the next generation. We acknowledge the hanging baskets and the flower tubs, but would suggest you concentrate on cleaning up the unsightly open spaces in and around the village. You have a lot of weed growth on the Ceolann approach and many gutters need weed control. You should consider a tree planting programme for the main street, combined with improved car discipline and erect some friendly seating on the town centre. This is a policy being pursued by many towns throughout the country.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your best approach here is to liaise with the school authorities and try and organise a wildlife project aimed at popularising wildlife. A local essay competition might help, or seek help from some member of the IWC.

Litter Control:

You have scored well in this section and litter control is good with adequate litter bins. Do you have a recycling centre, if not you should contact the Kerry Co. Council

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to an inordinate amount of dereliction and poor open spaces. The road surface in the area is very poor and needs upgrading. Some boundary walls need repairs. The old creamery is very disappointing.

Residential Areas:

We look forward to the successful completion of Kilcaragh Housing estate. We hope this scheme will be well landscaped and blend in well with the rural surroundings of Lixnaw. We also notice your intention of erecting an arch at Clogher Drive. We would urge you to erect appropriate bilingual signs at each housing estate, old and new. There are many excellent individual houses presented to a delightful standard and we commend the residents. The hidden treasure at St. Michael's Well was a real surprise and is presented to very high standard. We note the sign prohibiting cyclist and wonder why not encourage the children to visit the well on their bikes?. The only small disappointment being the inappropriate cover on the well: we suggest an improvement.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road structure and footpaths are really sub-standard. We find this unusual when compared to the state of the roads in south Kerry. Many side and rear entrances are poorly presented and we would remind you that these are now an integral part of the competition. The Community Centre is poor in presentation and should have improved car parking surface and better layout: you could have a very attractive landscape scheme here on this important building. Perhaps you would consider applying to Leader Plus for some help.

General Impression:

The village has potential for much improvement and we acknowledge the great cultural background of the area. You now need to match these strengths with environmental improvements. We reiterate our suggestion for a development plan that would have the backing and commitment of the community. If applied over five years the area would be a high scorer in the competition. Good luck

for 2005.