

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lismire**

Ref: **113**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **186**

Category: **A**

Date: **21/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	31	29
Tidiness	20	12	10
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	186	181

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission and information on work intended and on hand. Your village is unusual in its layout and design. It is quite spread out and needs a focal point. The cross roads needs to be highlighted and improved environmentally. It was wise first day to build the school there and a replacement building would help create a more focused village identity. You now need a plan that will chart the way forward for an improved Lismire. This can be best achieved through partnership and you need to contact the Cork Co. Council again and get them involved with you in tackling the many requirements. The Council would favour a small amount of new houses and in particular some infill housing. This would add to the vibrancy of the village and enable you to further develop environmental projects.

The Built Environment:

The public buildings mentioned last year looked well and some have good landscaping. Because of the many gaps and open spaces between buildings you have problems with unattended open spaces that are poorly presented.

Landscaping:

Approach roads need to be planted and improved in presentation. This can best be done by getting

advice on the type of species required for this area. We suggest you plant similar species as these look better when mature. Also, when planting, give consideration to the provision of food for wildlife in autumn and winter periods. We notice that some of your signage is obliterated with excessive growth.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have great opportunity for the promotion of wildlife and this can be tackled by individuals and by the community selecting sites suitable for habitats. It is also a wonderful learning experience for residents to get involved in this popular category. The Heritage Council have published an excellent book that will assist you in this category. Also a school project might prove worthwhile.

Litter Control:

In general litter control was good and this does not seem to be a problem for the community in Lismire.

Tidiness:

You have problems in this category, caused principally by open spaces poorly presented. You also have a problem with broken walls and this will need attention in the future. We suggest that you paint farm gates a bright colour and this would improve the appearance of approach roads in particular and highlight the rural distinction of the area. In all of your developments you need to preserve the rural ethos of Lismire and do not allow it to 'modernise' otherwise you will lose the rural character of the village. Tidiness differs from Litter Control, so you need to pay attention to open spaces and poorly finished developed.

Residential Areas:

On an individual basis houses are well presented. You can expect some new house building in the near future if the national pattern is to be maintained. In this respect you need to ensure that traditional features are protected and promoted. New housing should reflect the rural character of Lismire and the use of indigenous materials and traditional craftwork, (eg. timber sash windows), would help. This is why you need close liaison with the planning authority to ensure the character of the area is preserved. As a representative community organisation you need to know in advance what developments are planned for the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are poor and lack clarity. To a stranger visiting Lismire for the first time it can be confusing to identify the core of the village. We suggest you lay greater emphasis on the cross roads. Margins need to be neat and tidy and create an air of welcome. The excellent Duhallow signs are not getting the treatment they deserve and need to be improved in presentation. We liked the churn project and additional 'street furniture' can be attractive, provided it is well maintained.

General Impression:

Lismire has potential for much higher markings. We urge you to formulate a phased development plan that will improve the appearance and development potential of the village. This can best be achieved through partnership and your challenge is to bring the community with you and work with the various relevant authorities in achieving your aims. We wish you well for the future.