

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lowertown**

Ref: **400**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **165**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	20
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	21	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	11
Litter Control	40	30	25
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	20
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	165	155

Overall Developmental Approach:

Lowertown is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission; we note your reference to the preparation of a planned work programme and hope to receive it on time for next years competition as it is difficult to make serious progress without one; your Tidy Towns Handbook contains valuable insights on conducting a survey and formulating a plan appropriate to your village. The committee is aware of its cultural heritage and its importance in days gone by to the wider community; well done on recording the site of the old blacksmiths premises together with the dancing platform. We wish you every success in securing the necessary finance to highlight these features as a permanent part of the built environment of Lowertown.

The Built Environment:

The church building looked quite well on the day of adjudication together with the grotto memorial; the flower display did not make a strong positive visual impact and so was a bit superfluous. The church car park was neatly presented. We are aware of the situation regarding the shed which is still awaiting a planning decision.

Landscaping:

Your major concern in landscaping within the village and on entrances from approach roads should

be to place an emphasis on native species of trees, shrubs and flowers and avoid exotics in public places, the latter should be reserved for private gardens; native species encourage a greater diversity of wildlife habitats by providing the necessary conditions thereby obviating the necessity to attract wildlife. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for advice on appropriate landscaping. Young trees appear to be well established now and will hopefully provide a legacy for future generations.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A variety of wildflowers and grasses were observed and appreciated during adjudication the most noteworthy of these being the wonderful stands of montebretia which were not yet in flower, one can imagine how they must look in August. The small stream behind the fencing will be of wildlife interest, its significance in this regard should be established. You can best compete under this heading by undertaking a survey of the native flora and fauna of the area and promoting a general awareness of species present; this will enable protective measures to be put in place in the event of development within Lowertown.

Litter Control:

Litter picking along a mile stretch of road is a fine achievement and one the community can be proud of as it reflects their commitment to the environment. This accounts for the litter free status of Lowertown on adjudication day, well done.

Tidiness:

Reference has already been made to the problem of the old shed and we await developments in this regard. It was good to note the weed free status of the boundary wall of the church and its car park. We note also your regular sweeping of public areas.

Residential Areas:

Private dwellings within Lowertown were admired for their overall presentation and particularly for the beauty of their gardens; the outcrop of bare rock which is a feature of one garden adds a visual drama to the its surroundings. Two terraced dwellings near the grotto memorial look well as does the old school which now appears to be a private dwelling.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new nameplates give Lowertown the status of a village in the eyes of the travelling public and of course look well. Verges are quite well presented also; it will be necessary to decide how you wish to best present roadside verges in a manner appropriate to the rural character of the village; they can be left wild to their inside edge and allowed to feature seasonal wild flowers and grasses (an appropriate cutting regime will be necessary) outside edges can be maintained neatly trimmed from a chosen point before the nameplate to the village centre. Again you are referred to the Tidy Towns Handbook. When clearing stone walls to highlight their beautiful stonework it is not necessary to clear them completely to the point of sterility.

General Impression:

Lowertown is a tiny settlement which is now establishing itself as a village and has taken the most important first steps; congratulations on work to date we look forward to charting your progress further in the competition.

Second Round Adjudication:

