

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lusk**

Ref: **39**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **222**

Category: **C**

Date: **08/08/2005**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 40 | 39 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 35 | 34 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 30 | 29 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 17 | 16 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 26 | 27 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 15 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 23 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 28 | 26 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 222 | 217 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

Lusk is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission this year which included DVDs of Lusk past and present to leave a legacy for future generations. The village is going through unprecedented growth which creates pressure on existing amenities and facilities. This presents a challenge for the Tidy Towns group. If you do not have a planned work programme, one should be compiled as soon as possible, set to a time frame over the next three to five years and submitted with next year's application. It is good to note the sponsorship and financial assistance you receive from builders and your projects such as post cards, brochures, etc., church gate collections and the sale of cards are valuable fund-raising activities also. Your work in conjunction with Fingal County Council and public representatives, not to mention the local community on your many projects has brought Lusk successfully into the twenty first century and is progressing the village in the Tidy Towns Competition.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings were presented to a high standard. The church on Chapel Road was excellent in presentation including its burial grounds and the community unit of the health board together with its curtilage area was also presented to an excellent standard. Your heritage buildings are quite stunning and remain the focal points of your lovely village. Business premises such as Murrays Bar and Lounge, petrol station, Post Office and others were presented to a good standard. Well done on the new sculpture to the Raven of Fingal; it celebrates your wildlife heritage and complements your

cultural / social heritage buildings.

Landscaping:

At the time of adjudication the flower beds at the Torc sculpture had not yet been planted. The stand of semi-mature trees located across from the church, together with the green open space were admired. As these trees mature they will form a valuable heritage for future generations. The verges of the car park located across from Murray's Bar and Lounge should be landscaped for seasonal interest together with the roundabouts and traffic islands on the relief road. Do try to use native species as these are supportive of wildlife and increase wildlife diversity. Well done on the landscaping of new residential developments.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As noted above the Raven of Fingal sculpture celebrates your wildlife heritage and of course is a visual enhancement at this entrance to the village. Some details of wildlife habitats at Joe's bridge should be submitted for consideration as it can earn you additional marks under this heading. Has a wildlife survey of Lusk and its environs been undertaken and how have new developments impacted on wild life? Some consideration might be given to developing local walks to Slí na Sláinte standards. The Lusk UTD clubhouse and grounds is nicely presented.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good in Lusk on adjudication day, no doubt your publications pertaining to Lusk as a litter free area have played an important part in this achievement. The Keep Lusk Tidy Calendar is excellent also. Submit details next year of your daily and weekly litter control activities as these can be a source of extra marks.

Tidiness:

Congratulations on the new civic amenity centre and publications in relation to this. Some bags were noted at the recycling point, however it was being maintained in a tidy manner; it is important to monitor this situation as it can become problematic if allowed to grow. A derelict premises on the entrance from the Quickpenny Road was noted; no doubt it will be developed in due course given the demand for prime development sites. Well done on being out and about in difficult circumstances with development work on-going.

Residential Areas:

It is good to note your constant links with developers to ensure that new residential developments are finished and maintained to a high standard. The task now will be to encourage the formation of resident associations and to motivate them to maintain their own areas and become involved in the Tidy Towns movement. Work in progress on cottages on Quickpenny Lane looks promising. Both Village Road and Scholars Walk developments are presented to a high standard. The corner marking the entrance to Trean Hill Estate should now be planted up. Remind residents of the need to maintain their boundary walls and areas to the roadside of their boundary walls to as high a standard as that achieved for their dwellings, gardens, and general curtilage areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

So much development demands constant sweeping, scupping and spraying of weeds and although the committee has help from developers and Fingal County Council the task in on-going and no lapses can be allowed to occur. The relief road was admired for the standard of presentation of road surface and verges in relation to tree planting, however the long grass should not now be allowed to get out of hand. It was good to note the wirescape free status of the village centre including the Dublin Road but wirescape marked from the Skerries entrance was visually obtrusive.

Lampstandards are attractive and are being well maintained. The car park located across from Murray's bar and lounge should now be resurfaced in addition to landscaping around its perimeter.

General Impression:

Lusk is an ancient settlement which has withstood the test of time and no doubt will respond magnificently to twenty first century development pressures. The village is an attractive destination for visitors and home for its residents; we look forward to many repeat visits.

Second Round Adjudication:

In overall terms Lusk looked well on a bright sunny day in August when 2nd round adjudication took place. However on examination in detail there had been a serious deterioration in litter control since the 1st round adjudication. Large quantities of litter were noted in a number of different areas including Church Road and Station Road car park and the Main Street. Some of this litter appeared to be 'aged' litter that had been around for some time. It will be important to keep this area litter free at all times. It is very important that your Committee would develop a litter control plan for your town / village as part of your 3 – 5 Year Tidy Towns Plan mentioned above. The issue of litter control is not an issue just for the Local Authority. All citizens and especially your Tidy Towns Committee have a key role to play. Your plan should include such issues as surveying the litter bins that you have in your community and their adequacy, clean up days and the role of your local schools.

It is most important that litter bins are placed in close proximity to the largest generators of litter. The regular emptying of a litter bins if of course essential.

The new planting at the Torc sculpture are looked very colourful and is now quite a feature of Lusk.