

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lawrencetown**

Ref: **24**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **198**

Category: **A**

Date: **07/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	24
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	9	11
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>193</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your completed entry form and support documentation. Your draft plan was comprehensively set out. Please, in future years, mark on your map all the features which should be visited - for example, your map for 2005 did not show the Respond Housing Scheme, the Recycling Unit, the name of the housing estate, etc. It is hoped that we did not miss any points of interest as a result. (If you are ever planning a history of the locality, there are obviously dozens of stories to be included - for instance about the now vanished Belleview, and the castle beyond Lisheen graveyard and whatever happened to the children whose burial plot is here.) This adjudicator, who was new to the village, found that there was a sense of inconsistency in Lawrencetown: a mix of beautifully laid out areas cheek-by-jowl with less prepossessing spots. It is confidently expected that you will be able to rectify this over the coming years.

### The Built Environment:

The fine Church was pleasantly situated amid trim grounds; the same may be said for the the School. The Belleview Gate was visited and photographed for nomination for the Heritage award. The Seymour Mausoleum was also visited: as you have FAS involvement at the former, could it be extended to the latter? Several of the business premisses were well presented, though the signage at the Foodmarket could have done with upgrading and the handsome Beautiful Bird building needed its lettering attended to and its main gate needed repainting.

## **Landscaping:**

The delightful greens were well looked after. The roses near the charming Diarmuid and Grainne were exceptionally well nurtured. The area round the pump, including the paving, was well presented, as was the green next the Beautiful Bird. The picnic table on the path to Lisheen was found to be a useful feature. Your marking under this heading is exceptionally high - congratulations.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

One does not expect urban tidiness on a rural walk, and this is what we found on the streamside path to Lisheen; nonetheless it should be mentioned that the young beech and thorn hedges along the post-and-wire fence were severely threatened by weeds. Wonderful old timber was seen at the old cemetery, and indeed along most of the roads leading to the village, where the arching boughs created green tunnels.

## **Litter Control:**

The recycling unit was clean on the date of adjudication. Litter was seen at Lisheen cemetery and at the picnic table nearby - these are the kind of spots that need to be constantly watched.

## **Tidiness:**

Some very obtrusive dereliction was seen. The building opposite Paray's Bar needed reinstatement - fortunately it was mainly concealed by Virginia creeper. Dishevelled walls next the Foodmarket needed attention. The telephone kiosk was in very poor condition. There was also a considerable amount of kerbside weed in several places. Minor as the above discrepancies may seem, they do add up to a significant number of black spots, which was disappointing in a village where so much care has been expended.

## **Residential Areas:**

The large house dominating the area round the upper green looked very fine indeed. The small un-named estate nearby was beautifully enhanced by herbaceous beds and lawns; boundary walls should be painted to match the houses. The new housing in the centre of the village can not be commented upon until completed, but it should be said that this type of development is far preferable to the remote estates now being built elsewhere which have no sense of community. You should encourage infill housing in the village as much as possible, especially when it matches existing houses in scale and materials, and discourage ribbon developments on the outskirts. The fine terrace of four limestone houses on the Ballinasloe road was admired.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Most of the roads leading to Lwrencetown were well surfaced except the one from Portumna. New pavements were in process of being laid on the date of adjudication. New stone walls were admired; it was hoped that the cement block wall to the back area by the Beautiful Bird will be faced with stone in the best local tradition. A signpost to the Belleview gate would be appreciated by visitors, and perhaps an informational board giving the history of the restored Classical gateway and the unrestored Gothic one.

## **General Impression:**

This is a village with much to admire. There is no point in reiterating the fact that the vacant or derelict buildings detract considerably - you are all too well aware of this. In general, Lawrencetown

is a village full of pleasant features and views which your Community Enterprise Company is promoting with enthusiasm. Best wishes for the continued good work.