

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lixnaw**

Ref: **18**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **193**

Category: **B**

Date: **18/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	36
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	22
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>195</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

This is Lixnaw's third entry into the Tidy Towns competition. At this stage it is vital to formulate a plan of activities for the next three to five years. Assess all the needs and possible projects that hope to be achieved. Chart out a time scale, funding, and the practicalities of achieving the goals and form the plan from this information. Progress is difficult without such a plan and the plan formulation in itself will focus minds. Without a plan, work is sporadic and a full development will not be achieved. There is ample scope for improvement in Lixnaw. The number of derelict buildings, those needing attention and scope for landscaping is enormous. The structure of the village is very compact and this will help in an improvement plan.

### The Built Environment:

The church, school and convent form a considerable part of the built environment of the village – together with the long and high stonewall which wraps around the corner. These look well. The thatched house opposite the church is attractive. The Ceolann Cultural centre and Community centre look well. The stone and brick style of the Ceolann is attractive. Some buildings of the old railway station should be more important in the village context and it is a pity these are left aside. Buildings beside the Railway Bar are unsightly and need attention. The old creamery area is also very unsightly. The frontal areas of white walls and gate adjacent to the post office also need attention. The memorial arch lacks a proper setting. The St. Michaels Well is attractively presented. Some

stonewalls through the village add a nice touch but there are a number of painted walls that need attention. The school on the Abbeydorney Road is well presented.

### **Landscaping:**

There are a great number of trees within and around the village, which lends great character to the village. Roadside gardens also contribute well to the landscape of the village. Again this year there are much overgrown roadside verges on approach roads. The kerbside weeds and grasses are encroaching on the roads and need attention. The footpaths by the entrance to Kilcaragh estate are in a sad state. There is need for overview stocktaking of the roadside appearance to be taken road by road to establish what is needed and what can be done. The entrance to and interior green spaces in the Cloghers estate are in a very sad state with no maintenance apparent there. In the Kilcaragh estate there is landscaping in progress with grass sowing and tree planting. – a plan must be devised for the maintenance of this area. Individual gardens that are looked after well by their owners contribute well to the overall landscape of the village.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Consult the tidy towns handbook or contact your local environmental officer to establish what type of project could be started in the village. There are always possibilities for encouraging awareness of the value of the natural environment. Schools involvement is very important in this regard as young people need to understand the environment and pass this in turn to future generations. Developments are possible around the old courthouse and by the riverbank

### **Litter Control:**

There is a reasonably good standard of litter control in the village. Some litter was noted on roads but this is not a major problem. Deposal of litter and waste materials and recycling are also issues under this heading and it would be good to include your management system in the plan.

### **Tidiness:**

Because of the many derelict buildings and those needing attention a certain level of untidiness is noticeable. Also the entrance to the Cloghers estate and the areas by the old railway station are untidy. Roadside kerb grass weeds do not help. Hopefully the overhead cables will be placed underground in the near future Building work also causes some untidiness but this is only temporary.

### **Residential Areas:**

The new housing estate at Kilcaragh looks very well and when the landscaping is in place this estate will look very attractive. The housing estate being built on the Abbeydorney road has far to go yet. It is important with such developments that proper reinstatement of the site takes place before builders leave. Individual houses are well tended. There are a number of houses whose walls and roadside boundaries need attention.

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

The road surfaces within the village are in a very poor condition with lots of patching and poor quality surface. Hopefully this will be remedied soon. Lobbying by committees can help to speed up the process. Footpaths in places need attention. The footpath opposite the church and convent has been renewed but comes to an abrupt end. Overgrown roadside verges are a hazard in places.

### **General Impression:**

Lixnaw is a village with tremendous potential. There is a lot of work to be done in and around the village. This needs to be progressed in a methodical way and a good planning can achieve this.