

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leixlip**

Ref: **79**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **218**

Category: **F**

Date: **30/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	36
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	22	20
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	218	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

The material supplied with the entry form was very comprehensive, giving a very good understanding of the approach being taken in Leixlip and showing the work in progress and plans. The maps included were also very useful. The cooperation with the Leixlip Town Council is excellent and advances the work of the community. The many people and groups that make great efforts in Leixlip to enhance the village and surrounds are to be commended. Over the years a good deal of development has taken place and the village has retained its core value despite the huge building developments that have taken place and the enormous traffic volume.

The Built Environment:

The presentation of almost all of the buildings in the main street is very good. There are a few that need attention either to wall paintwork to make them look fresh and crisp and some buildings where window frame paint is needed. The bridge on entry from Dublin needs attention to its railings. Stonewalls are a pleasant feature of the village and surrounds. The intended treatment of the Sculpture will be welcome. The landmark buildings give great character to the village and are being treated well

Landscaping:

There is a substantial amount of landscaping in and around the village. The entrances to many housing estates are very attractive and add greatly to the overall landscape of the village. Well-kept greens and verges within the estates and the attractive treatment around the nameplate sign for each of the estates looks very well. Individual gardens within estates and along roadsides contribute well and their owners deserve praise for this. The great amount of hanging baskets and window boxes within the streets adds a welcome sparkle to the village for the summer. The treatment of the windowsills along the Black Castle houses opposite the Fire station look very well. The entrance to the Louisa Bridge walk needs attention. The open area alongside Castle Park with overgrown grasses and some dumping also needs a solution. The treatment of the area at the back of the shops from Ralph Square to Fountain Square is very attractive with the high quality lawns, shrubberies and seating and decking viewing points for the river. The adopt and area scheme seems a great incentive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside walk is very attractive and the improvements planned will be welcome. Parts of the walkway were closed and the new landscaping at the back of the buildings, which adjoins the riverside walk, looked very well. While walking on the riverside walk a Kingfisher was spotted and some wagtails. The interpretive signs are very useful. The large number of trees planted along the roadsides and the shrubberies are all helpful in providing cover and a habitat for wildlife.

Litter Control:

There appears to be an improvement in the litter situation since last year. All the work performed by the local community and working in conjunction with the council seems to be paying off. A huge amount of volunteer effort is the best approach and your aims in this respect are laudable. A large amount of litter seems to accumulate by the riverside just below the newly landscaped area behind the plaza carpark. Some litter was spotted along the streets also. Constant vigilance is required in this regard. Having four schools in the village with green flag is a great achievement.

Tidiness:

There is a good level of tidiness around the village. The work of local shopkeepers and residents is to be commended in this respect. The green flag holders and the extra litterbins are good points. The railings at the bridge on the Dublin road and the entrance to the Louisa bridge walk are both places where improvement will be welcome. A solution for the fountain will also be welcome. There is a lot of weediness along footpaths – in the cobble lock and by kerbing in several places around the village.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas are very well cared for and as stated above the estates are very well presented. Great credit is due to all who have contributed to this. Tree planting is a vital part of open spaces development within estates – this lends character to an open space – frequently even a few large growing trees placed in strategic places are much more beneficial in the long term than a large number of small growing trees. Attention to detail of kerbside weeds is always necessary.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the village are well treated. The great number of roadside trees and shrubberies that are now maturing well give a very attractive entrance to the village – these blend in well with the frontages of residential areas. The signage is well looked after also, In the village – some attention to the roadside by the Garda station is needed where the surface is broken. Footpaths in general are fine except that there appears to be a lack of uniformity in places with many styles merging. Road markings are also fading in places. The undergrounding of cables is a great success. The street name and lane names are well presented.

General Impression:

Leixlip has retained a village aspect very much despite the huge traffic and buildings explosion that has taken place. More carparking would be welcome. Over the years many good improvements have been made and the work by the riverside and with the core buildings are a great attribute of the village.