

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lismore**

Ref: **152**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **278**

Category: **C**

Date: **05/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	40	37	36
Landscaping	40	39	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	27
Litter Control	40	38	38
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	36
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>275</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Heartiest congratulations to your committee and all your supporters for winning the National Tidy Town Awards last year. Together with the Regional Award, the County Award and the Gold Medal Award you made a "clean sweep" in more ways than one. A wonderful effort which has been again repeated this year. All the information you have sent with the entry form indicates that there has been no letup in your efforts and that of you partners – Waterford County Council, Schools, FAS, local organisations and residents, the evidence of which was to be seen in Lismore on adjudication day. Your planning document which goes to the end of 2005, will now need to be updated for next year starting with a survey of what you would expect to achieve in 2006 and what will ideally be achievable for 2007 onwards.

### The Built Environment:

Again this year wonderful work has been carried out in the maintenance of your public buildings, all of which were seen on adjudication day – both Churches, Schools, Heritage Centre, County Council Offices etc. Blackwater Community School is a fine building and is matched in its presentation by the new Library. Work on the old Railway Buildings was in progress on adjudication day as indeed was work on other building sites throughout the town. Walls, both old and new looked resplendent and are a lovely feature as are, in many cases, their adornments by way of baskets of flowers. The blending of the old and new buildings continues apace through a mix of landscaping, stone walls and

similar type open spaces. The monument in the centre of the town is a lovely feature but its railings, which were much admired last year, seems to have disappeared. Do replace it with something similar in preference to flowers or shrubs. The Grotto is a lovely presentation and were much admired also. Commercial premises throughout the town reflect greatly which their owners have in maintaining the impetus started last year and they are to be congratulated for it. It is true to say however the odd premises, although looking well, would benefit in the near future from a coat of paint.

### **Landscaping:**

The high standard of last year has again been reached this year with some wonderful displays all over the town. Large displays were again to be seen on the approach roads from Tallow and Cappoquin, at the Lismore Hotel, at both Churches, in the vicinity of the Grotto, at the new Blackwater Community School and indeed in many streets where large areas of flowers and shrubs looked resplendent in the summer sunshine. As one has now come to expect in Lismore individual commercial premises and indeed houses throughout the main areas made their contribution to the overall by the provision of hanging baskets, window boxes, tubs of flowers and planters. In fact one could not turn a corner without being faced with a blaze of colour from flowers and shrubs of all varieties. The advent of hanging baskets on lamp standards seems to have been extended this year and is to be welcomed. The astounding appearance of the Millennium Park just goes from strength to strength. A new sculpture has appeared there and was much admired. The waterfalls, the flower beds and the tree and shrub planting are just exquisite and was obviously being much enjoyed by the many visitors who were there on adjudication day.

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

Your list of priorities under this heading in your report have been noted and obviously excellent work is being done through your Heritage Centre, with the Wild Life Ranger and with your restocking programme which is ongoing. On this occasion ducks were seen on the canal. Your proposal to erect a wildlife notice board is indeed a good one and perhaps could be augmented by the provision of a piece of literature giving details of what species can be seen locally which would be of interest to both residents and visitors alike.

### **Litter Control:**

For the second year running Lismore was litter free on adjudication day. What a wonderful achievement. When going around the town it was so gratifying to see people, particularly young people, putting their litter in the bins which seem to have increased in number since last year. Great credit is due to your community for their attitude to the litter problem, the result of which has manifested itself in Lismore again this year.

### **Tidiness:**

There was a good deed of building taking place in Lismore at the moment which is leading to some untidiness particularly in the area of the Church. This however will pass and has been allowed for in the adjudication. The town had a lovely neat and tidy appearance on adjudication day. In passing however it should be mentioned that car parking in the main street in particular is becoming a problem. Inadvertently this does create an "untidy" appearance. Perhaps as part of your future planning you might consider discussing with your Local Authority the question of the provision of off-street parking.

## **Residential Areas:**

New housing estates in Lismore are maturing very nicely. Open spaces are being well maintained and some lovely landscaping was to be seen in many of them. Older estates equally looked very well and many had mature trees and shrubs which created a lovely atmosphere and living environment. Many, both old and new, had lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day which were lovely to see and had a high level of maintenance. Those living in terraced houses without front gardens were not to be outdone and provided beautiful window boxes, hanging baskets and tubs of flowers to augment the wonderful effort that is being made throughout the town. This type of collective and individual effort is most important under this heading. Again a big "well done" to all concerned.

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

Approach roads are beautifully presented and create a lovely impression for the town. In this connection the Cappoquin and Tallow roads are some of the finest examples of what approach roads should look like but other minor approaches also look extremely well and one did not have to travel very far before being met by some lovely landscaped displays. Road surfaces are quite good the exception, on this occasion, being the roads in the vicinity of the Church where building work is taking place. However this has been allowed for in the adjudication and will, no doubt, solve itself in time. Pathways are also being very well maintained and in all of this great credit is due to your Local Authority for their efforts.

## **General Impression:**

After last year it is difficult to find words to describe Lismore which continues to develop, blossom and bloom and is always a joy to visit. A high standard of maintenance throughout the town, some lovely landscaping, the wonderful Millennium Park and Lismores many historic buildings will ensure that this situation will continue for a considerable length of time to come. Great credit is due to all for another wonderful presentation.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

The castle looked as majestic as ever on the Dungarvan approach. The fruition of Lismore Castle Arts is looked forward to. Once again Millennium Park was being well enjoyed. The public toilets were commendably clean. Prolific planting was to be seen throughout with scarcely a weed or piece of litter to be seen. Street cleaning was in progress during adjudication. It seems that the Community Centre carpark still has more scope. The town centre is improving every year but there are still several individual properties which could be enhanced. The Cathedral Mall is always enjoyed. Recent stone wall building in front of some heretofore open yards is welcome. Numerous exceptionally well tended gardens were noted and where the fine terraces immediately address the street exemplary floral displays were admired. Some untidiness albeit temporary has been created by the civil engineering works but the new road surfacing and paving augers well.