

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lahinch**

Ref: **394**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **211**

Category: **B**

Date: **23/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	211	208

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for completed entry form, excellent map and documentation in respect of the Race Against Waste Project. Also three year plan giving details of what the Committee plans to do in the years ahead. Your aims and targets are ambitious and we wish you well with them and look forward to seeing progress in the years ahead. As you so rightly set out in your document, the involvement of all the community and all the State Agencies, especially Clare County Council will be needed in order to achieve what you wish to do. There is quite a considerable amount of work involved in your plans and we would suggest that the committee of eight perhaps think of expanding and getting in more assistance to lighten the load somewhat. Other towns have done this and have given a specific project to a sub-committee or maybe to one person and this approach seems to be successful. We would also suggest that you consider (If you have not already done so) entering other competitions such as National Spring Clean Week, (run by An Taisce); Green Schools; Golden Mile; IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter); Anti Litter League; Pride of Place (all-Ireland competition); LEADER Environmental Initiatives and County Council Competitions, as appropriate.

The Built Environment:

Most businesses on the main street are well presented. Unfortunately, there are still two very visible derelict premises on this street also. On the promenade the area near the old toilets is very

poor indeed including the old building and the raised flower bed where no planting has taken place. The Church, Lahinch Golf & Leisure Hotel, Greenbriar Inn and Moher View were especially well presented. As in other towns construction is taking place to a considerable extent and when contractors are finished they should be asked to leave these sites in an orderly fashion.

Landscaping:

Landscaping on the approach roads was admired and there is an obvious commitment to the maintenance of same. The beach looked extremely well on a sunny day and was being enjoyed by many surfers. Visitors were using the picnic tables off the promenade and enjoying a meal al fresco. Unfortunately the two flower containers at the roundabout at the end of promenade where all cars go to turn presented a very dismal appearance as did the very visible flower beds on the promenade near the old toilets. As mentioned, with such a small committee no doubt it is difficult to get around to all projects and the wet weather during May was also a hindrance this year.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Planting which has been undertaken around the town contributes under this section. Also your planned project to undertake research on wading birds in conjunction with An Taisce is to be commended.

Litter Control:

Litter management projects and your initiatives on waste management were noted. In the latter connection thank you for your application form under the Race Against Waste Project. From this we note that you applied to Clare County Council for plastic disposal units. We would suggest that you site these carefully in an area which is not too intrusive in the town and police them on a regular basis. There was little litter to be seen in Lahinch on the day of adjudication – well done. The appointment of a dedicated Litter Warden is obviously going to enhance this situation even further. It is good that the National School has helped out with litter collection. It is essential that young people are made aware of the need to keep their own place tidy and neat at an early age.

Tidiness:

Apart from the areas mentioned above, Lahinch was looking quite tidy on the day of adjudication. Large building sites were noted near the Church and on the Ennistymon Road and these rather disrupt the streetscapes. Contractors should be encouraged to keep these sites neat and tidy at all times and leave them in an orderly fashion on completion of the work. As previously mentioned, the wall bases on the road out past the golf links on the Liscannor Road have an untidy appearance. What would be needed here is a once off task force to be set up to get rid of the grass off the wall bases and all that would be needed in the future would be to spray these areas in May to ensure a clean and tidy aspect to this approach to the town. Outside the town the roadside banks can be left in a natural state but within the speed signs these should be neat and tidy.

Residential Areas:

Most residential premises on the approach roads and throughout the town were looking well and contribute to the tidy town efforts. On the Station Road a number of housing estates were visited and we would suggest that perhaps a residents committee be set up in these housing estates. This would bring co-operation in clearing the grassed areas and ensuring that no litter builds up.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The surface of the road at the promenade car park is in very poor condition. Also verges were in very poor condition on Station Road – although some pot holes were being patched on the day of adjudication. We note that you are having discussions with Clare County Council at present on these issues.

General Impression:

Lahinch has always been a jewel in County Clare attracting thousands of visitors to its renowned Golf Links, wonderful beach and to the nearby Cliffs of Moher. Unfortunately, at present it is not reaching it's full potential, mainly because of circumstances outside the scope of the Tidy Towns Committee. We would suggest that the Committee meet with Clare County Council and other interested bodies such as the Lahinch Chamber of Commerce in order to discuss the need for more attention being given to the town.