

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lahinch** Ref: **80**
County: **Clare** Mark: **221**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	221

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the excellent application and sketch map, which allowed the adjudicator to identify areas within the village and its surrounds during the course of adjudication.

The resume of work plans was noted and the action items are very achievable which is the main objective of any plan.

The enclosed sample letters to builders and developers puts the onus on them to make the effort to help your work as committee, by keeping sites safe and tidy while in the process of construction.

The development that has taken place in Lahinch over the last number of years has effected a dramatic change in the town and to this adjudicator it has been quite staggering.

There seems to be plans for another body of mixed development, and one wonders how more can a town of such size maintain.

Your committee of 6 people has been extremely active in trying to mobilise people to contribute to the Tidy Towns effort.

One feels that you have succeeded,as in general the town was looking quite well on what was an extremely busy holiday period.

One sympathises with you as a committee as you try to keep up with developments and the large number new property owners that the area attracts.

It is important,although easier said than done, to engage with representatives of new owners and outline your plans and how they can be become involved for the betterment of Lahinch as a community as well as a holiday destination.

The interaction with Clare County Council and other relevant agencies is important as it allows you to access resources when required.

Good to note that the local school children are playing an active part in your activities.

The Built Environment:

The evening of adjudication was very busy but there was an improvement in parking arrangements, no doubt this was due to warden patrol.

The improvement in footpaths, with cobble lock effect, has made a big change to the look of the centre of the Lahinch.

Public Buildings were kept in very good condition, and both the School and the Garda Station deserve special mention for the manner in which they both were presented.

The Church stands on an elevated site overlooking the town and this was also well maintained.

It is extremely pleasing to see that the original traditional shop front is to the fore amongst all the modernisation, and P Frawley stands out for its simple but eye-catching front in a prime location. The adjudicator's photograph may not have done it justice because of cars parked in front.

Other more modern commercial premises were also admired for the standard of presentation and some had awnings, which is traditional of many seaside resorts.

The following appealed to this adjudicator for simplicity of style.

Shamrock Inn Hotel, Kennys and Gem of Eve. The Lahinch Golf and Leisure Hotel is a well presented and spacious property.

As ever the Golf Clubhouse, with its magnificent two world famous courses, was in splendid condition and the Army property across the way was maintained to a good standard.

In general the new property developments within the town itself are in keeping with existing street architecture, but there are a few totally out of context and the less said about these the better.

The promenade has been improved upon over the last few years and it is now better able to accommodate the ever increasing number of people that populate it during the holiday season.

Landscaping:

The landscaping arrangements at the junction of Liscannor and Ennis roads on the green area was very effective with a mix of colour in planters and shrubs that are suitable to coastal locations.

This type of arrangement was more evident at the entrance to newish holiday home complex An Creag on the Miltown road.

The promenade has been enhanced by some prudent planting, let's hope that it does not become tampered with.

It was noticeable that there was not a multitude of hanging baskets in the core area itself, but in reality this did not take away from the Main Street in any way.

Some very nice and appealing private gardens and stone beds were observed during the period traversing the town and its environs.

One front of house arrangement on the school road was admired for its lush combination of lupins, campanula and hardy annuals.

Finally the car park at the Cregg Beach end of town does need a little brightening up and it is in your plans to place some planters there.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The idea of placing an information board, or indeed a series of three or four, at appropriate locations on the promenade or extended walk area is very good.

There are no such public display boards to my knowledge at Lahinch beach area and I would suggest the Committee approach the appropriate county council officer for advice.

You mention in the enclosed plan summary that you intend getting the Local Heritage Council involved and that you are also hoping to have noticed boards in new proposed playground area.

We will look forward to further progress on these planned actions.

Litter Control:

Your efforts in trying to keep the town and its outskirts free from litter are laudable but your task is not one to be envied.

Again the involvement of the school children will give them a sense of responsibility in trying to keep Lahinch litter free.

Given that the town is subject to such an influx of people, especially at weekends, the standard was quite acceptable and your good work must be getting through.

There are black spots especially at meeting points near the beach.

The regular pick ups will ensure that they don't become too littered.

Finally it may be opportune to provide a series of anti litter notices with the of "Keep Lahinch litter free Take it with you".

This will ensure that the message is strong and directed to the multitude of holiday makers.

Waste Minimisation:

Your comment in the application as regards the school children being involved in re cycling projects and your encouragement to local people to use main County Recycling facility down the road in Inagh have been noted. I would suggest that you consult the booklet on better waste management that was included in the original application package.

This booklet offers ideas for additional projects that will supplement what you have suggested, and will also give examples from other communities similar to your selves.

Such projects help the community to manage waste better and also it may get the town some additional marks in this competition.

Tidiness:

The amount of ongoing building work has lead to a lot of active site work and this tends create untidy areas. The letters to developers will make them aware of your concerns about untidiness being created by building works and the provision ancillary services.

Overall the standard was acceptable without being exceptional.

In relation to dead weed growth it is important to clean up residue, as it can be more unsightly than overgrowth itself.

Name and directional signs were visible and well maintained.

The level of window posters and fly posting on hoardings etc seems to have decreased since my last visit to the resort.

There were a lot of items placed in front of shops which I suppose is traditional in seaside towns.

Residential Areas:

Overall the standard in this category was quite good.

There are many new developments in the town, some are becoming established and others are in the process of completion.

These, coupled with the large caravan parks housing permanent mobile homes, makes the task of adjudication in this category slight onerous. but

One had to be fair and objective, and also realise that many of these new estates are largely unoccupied in low season.

It would be neigh impossible to concisely adjudicate on every one in this report but a few that attracted the adjudicators attention for basic maintenance and well kept communal areas are as follows: Cois Tra a tasteful development with well looked after green area. Fairways on the School Road and Gregg Lodge Houses.

The Main Caravan/Mobile Home Parks on the Miltown Road were well kept although the landscaping looked a bit jaded and the owners might consider upgrading for next season.

The established "local" estate on Station Road was in immaculate condition with a beautiful green area and resting seat in front. Well done to the residents.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrance from Miltown Malbay was very busy with a dangerous bend near Cregg beach.

It was well tended to but could benefit from an introduction to Lahinch sign nearer the town.

The surface was good.

The Moy road was acceptable and indeed the roads in from both Ennistymon and Liscannor were also very acceptable with very good road surface and extended footpaths that allow one to walk in safety.

Name and speed limit signs were visible, but the constant problem of advertising boards is here as well as every other town of significance in the country. Oh to be a rural village of the beaten track.

General Impression:

The adjudicator has expressed his wonderment at the expansion of Lahinch and wonders even more of how much it can be sustained.

It seems that more of this quirkily phrased "mixed development" is set to take place as indicated by planning notices and zoned land for sale – hopefully all this does not choke the core of what is a very attractive seaside resort.

The town can do even better in this competition.

At the moment it is slightly hampered by all of the above but hopefully this will slow down dramatically in the next year or so.

Your efforts in trying circumstances have been taken into account, and the town has improved its marking in a few categories.

Keep up the momentum and get more on board to bolster your efforts.

