

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Lixnaw** Ref: **346**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **200**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **22/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	1
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>200</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Lixnaw is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, a little more detail in filling out the application would help your progress in the competition significantly, as it would facilitate the adjudication process. On deciding upon the marks the adjudicators take into consideration not only what they see on the survey day with their eyes but also information provided by the Tidy Towns Committee on their strategies, difficulties and activities in general. Your bilingual signage is a nice touch, perhaps some interesting features about Lixnaw and its cultural heritage could be recorded on interpretative panels and located at various points in the village, one example might be how the village got its present day name of Lixnaw and its importance to the wider hinterland as a swimming place in days gone by.

### **The Built Environment:**

The church and its grounds were beautifully presented behind its high natural stone boundary wall and the school was nicely painted also. The Garda Station is in need of some attention to its weather stained boundary wall, these could be either be cleaned and / or painted and the Post Office looked well. The Dew Drop Inn should replace its plastic neon fascia sign with either individual lettering or a hand painted timber sign and the unidentified pub should remove its three beer signs. The hairdressing salon located across from the church looks quite well however the posters in the window here spoil an otherwise good presentation.

### **Landscaping:**

The curtilage area of the Community Centre is large and bare and would benefit from attractive landscaping. Existing stands of mature tree are quite magnificent and generate a stately ambience. Lixnaw lacks a community park, for recreation of amenity usage a number of sites within the environs of the village would be

suitable namely one between the river at the bridge and the village itself which is far enough for space required but close enough to the village to be within walking distance. As Lixnaw is poised to grow further over the next few years given the number of new housing developments there will be an increasing need for a community park. When planting trees and flowers and hedgerow in the future try to use native species, as these are supportive of wildlife.

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

A section of the riverbank which could be seen from the public road was host to a good variety of wild grasses and reeds which provide valuable wildlife habitats and at the same time had high visual amenity value also. Perhaps the schools could be approached with a view to undertaking a wildlife survey, the results of which could be published on a wildlife interpretative panel and serve to heighten awareness and appreciation of wildlife. Other initiatives could involve a wildlife poster competition in the school. You are referred to your Tidy Towns handbook, which is an excellent source of ideas.

### **Litter Control:**

Your bilingual signs regarding maintaining Lixnaw litter free has been noted, well done on this initiative. The village was litter free at the time of our visit and we note from your submission that you engage in regular litter patrols and that you have an anti-litter awareness campaign planned; do keep us informed of the result of the litter awareness programme. Information such as the segregation of litter for recycling would be valuable under this heading and could help you progress further under this heading in the competition.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Your recycling point was neatly presented, well done on performing well under this heading and gain additional marks. It is necessary to work with different sectors of the community to audit the amount of waste generated and to be creative of finding new ways of minimising waste in addition to providing recycling facilities. The literature you received from the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government is full of ideas on how to go about this.

### **Tidiness:**

The village had an overall appearance of tidiness however weed growth was prevalent at a number of locations and the kerbed verge/footpath out the road by the Community Centre looked particularly bad and is in urgent need of rehabilitation. The nameplate on the road past the Sheehys premises was disfigured and should be replaced or restored. It is important to maintain the base of the bridge walls weed free.

### **Residential Areas:**

Your maintenance of walls and fences together with open spaces is acknowledged. The Clogher Drive development is nicely presented in respect of its green open space, and the Kilcaragh residential development has been beautifully landscaped and boasts open plan garden, hopefully new residents here will maintain their own estate to a high standard. Some gardens located across from the school were admired but one or two boundary walls here were in need of painting to freshen their appearance. The beautiful Memorial Arch to the Irishmen who died in the Korean War 1950/1953 is a thoughtful initiative and enhances this area of the village significantly hopefully the path inside the memorial will be resurfaced and the retaining wall to the path planted with climbing plants. Encourage all residents to maintain their boundary walls to a high standard together with their roadside areas to boundary walls.

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

Your maintenance of walls and fences together with open spaces is acknowledged. The Clogher Drive development is nicely presented in respect of its green open space, and the Kilcaragh residential development has been beautifully landscaped and boasts open plan garden, hopefully new residents here will maintain their own estate to a high standard. Some gardens located across from the school were admired but one or two boundary walls here were in need of painting to freshen their appearance. The beautiful Memorial Arch to the Irishmen who died in the Korean War 1950/1953 is a thoughtful initiative and enhances this area of the village significantly hopefully the path inside the memorial will be resurfaced and the retaining wall to the path planted with climbing plants. Encourage all residents to maintain their boundary walls to a high standard together with their roadside areas to boundary walls.

**General Impression:**

The overall appearance of Lixnaw is one of a pleasant village, which is growing at quite a fast rate. The challenge for the Tidy Towns Committee will be to try to ensure that the necessary infrastructure and recreational amenity needs for your growing community are met.