

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lisdowney** Ref: **399**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **233**
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	233

Overall Development Approach:

Lisdowney is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. Lisdowney is a charming rural village located in a rural setting of beautiful countryside. The village is a centre of rich cultural heritage and your information panel in the car park illustrates this for the travelling public and the local community, well done.

The Built Environment:

Both the school and the church look especially well but the boundary wall of the school needs to be painted to freshen its appearance; the clubhouse in the sports grounds is weather stained. Some farm outbuildings could be either cleaned, painted or planted as a number of these are weather stained together with weather stained walls to out buildings. The church is beautifully presented, hopefully the bar will replace the outdated beer sign at some stage in the future.

Landscaping:

The public art feature in the village centre car park is a wonderful celebration of both your wildlife heritage and cultural heritage. The young trees and hedgerow, which landscape the car park, are maturing well and will provide valuable wildlife habitat in the years to come. The trees located behind the walls of the sports grounds are maturing nicely. Container plants have been noted in barrels and hanging baskets and were admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife panel in the car park on Ecology of an Oak Tree is beautifully illustrated, most informative, and celebrates your wildlife heritage. Perhaps you could undertake a wildlife survey and involve young people in

this, to identify species present and perhaps make provision for these in the face of future developments.

Litter Control:

Litter control is excellent in the village centre; a few scraps were noted but not worth identifying, however a plastic bottle was noted outside the sports grounds; the adjudicator is taking this as an isolated incident. No doubt the clean up evenings which were orchestrated by the Tidy Towns Committees make an important contribution to your litter free status.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling point is well located and is very tidy. For extra marks under this heading it will be necessary to identify some initiatives involving the whole community such as farmers, residents and schoolchildren etc, to develop initiatives to minimise waste as opposed to simply recycling waste; we look forward to your input under this heading over the next few years.

Tidiness:

The overall appearance of the village is one of tidiness, however a number of untidy sites field entrances/ road edges at the entrance to the village from the Freshford road have an appearance of untidiness. The treatment of the vacant premises on the Freshford end of the village is excellent and the black and white colour scheme here together with the window boxes makes a strong positive visual impact; well done to whoever is responsible for this work.

Residential Areas:

All residential properties are well presented with attractive boundary walls, gardens, side areas and other elements; one especially freshly painted roadside boundary wall was noted for a strong positive visual impact that it made on its environment.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads to the village were overgrown along their verges which is not too much of a problem as wild grasses have an important ecological value, however nameplates must be kept clear this was not the case at the time of adjudication one was partially hidden, one was almost totally hidden, and a third one was missing altogether; perhaps you could consider cutting a narrow strip along the outside edge of the verge from just before the name plate to the centre of the village and leaving the inner edge to feature wild grasses and flowers and so retain their wildlife status. The village and approach roads feature a lot of stone work most of which are very attractive, perhaps more of the stone walls on approach roads could be revealed over time to feature their beauty and the craft involved in the work. The car park was admired for its landscaping, nice surface, and of course it's public art. The service pole at the church which has service cables radiating out in several directions will hopefully to be removed and have the cables ducted as it has high visibility, the second one would be just across the road from the car park.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Lisdowney is one of an attractive village which is beautifully presented in the centre but less so on the outskirts; the treatment of approach roads and the entrance from the Freshford road would go a long way to address this problem.