

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lusk** Ref: **174**
County: **Dublin (Fingal)** Mark: **251**
Category: **E** Date(s): **10/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	251

Overall Development Approach:

Lusk is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. The Committee are to be congratulated on the assimilation of a large new population into the community whilst at the same time retaining the heritage of Lusk. Well done on your video and pictorial record of old Lusk and also on your Cultural Centre. It is good to note that you are involved in the Pride of Place competition also. Your partnership approach with other statutory bodies and agencies together with your talks in schools no doubt are effective in the success you have achieved to date.

The Built Environment:

The new SuperValu premises in the Square is a handsome development and adds to the built environment of Lusk. All public buildings within Lusk are presented to a high standard, the Community Hall was particularly admired and schools and churches were neatly presented. A few low corrugated roofs are in need of attention and hopefully the dated beer signs on the Top Shop pub will be removed, however, the refurbished item of agricultural machinery here together with flower displays are a nice touch.

Landscaping:

Many green open spaces were admired for their standard of maintenance and grass verges and roundabouts are nicely presented also. Recently planted young trees will hopefully provide a heritage for future generations. New flowerbeds have been noted at a number of locations. The boundary treatment e.g. the stone wall along the Rathmore Road together with decorative railings is a handsome feature of this part of the town. We look forward to the completion of the Remore roundabout in respect of landscaping and admired the small green on Chapel Road. We wish you every success in your proposed survey to identify sites that will benefit from landscaping.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations on the video produced by your community entitled "Hedgerows of Fingal and their importance", this is a wonderful initiative and will promote the awareness of the wildlife habitats of hedgerows; your dvd on the Waterways of Fingal is an excellent initiative also and will have the same effect. Perhaps the perimeter fencing of St. Macculins Park could be planted with native species to support wildlife and some thought might be given to the further development of a wildlife garden for the school grounds.

Litter Control:

Well done on your talks on litter awareness to local schoolchildren and the organisation of weekly cleanups, your poster initiative to shops on keeping Lusk tidy is an excellent idea also together with competitions. The overall appearance of Lusk was one of being litter free overall, however, Murray's car park was quite littered, as was the curtilage area of Lusk United together with some stretches of grass bank along Rathmore Road. These were not serious problems in and of themselves, however, they do indicate that you may need to review your litter control activities.

Waste Minimisation:

No doubt your poster on the need to reduce, reuse, recycle will play an important role in raising awareness of the need to minimise waste. The recycling point was tidy on the day of adjudication, however a beer box was noted alongside, again this is not serious of itself but will need to be watched as recycling points can end up being eyesores. Perhaps a waste audit could be undertaken to identify the volume of waste generated by the community and creative strategies devised to reduce this. Other suggested activities are composting and encouraging each householder to do this or providing a location for a community compost.

Tidiness:

Well done to the composer of the poem on weeds which is both amusing and effective in promoting awareness of the need for greater weed control. Your efforts regarding weed control and the elimination of graffiti are worthwhile and acknowledged and appreciated. Well done also on maintaining a clean face to building facades in view of the amount of traffic particularly construction traffic using the main roads of your village.

Residential Areas:

Lusk has many new residential developments and on the day of adjudication those that were visited appeared to be maintained to a high standard with excellent boundary treatment, well maintained grassed areas and young trees and shrubs that were getting a chance to mature. It is good to note that all new estates are being named within the context of the history of Lusk. Well done on the acquisition of new name stones and on the installation of the new management scheme for residential areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Name stones are an attractive feature of Lusk village together with your wonderful sculpture. Street furniture is generally well presented, attractive lamp standards and a nice touch to the streetscape. Some litter bins and utility boxes were still a bit spoilt by graffiti. However, we do appreciate your efforts in this regards and are aware that the problem keeps coming back no matter what is done but encourage you not to lose heart.

General Impression:

The overall appearance of Lusk village is favourable and it seems to be a well-integrated village that has it's estates as part of the life of the community. You seem to be taking your huge increase in population in your stride, well done.