

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lawrencetown** Ref: **199**
County: **Galway** Mark: **215**
Category: **A** Date(s): **30/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	215

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for your application and giving details of work done and future work planned. Your application does not mention a development plan, and we wonder has one been developed for the village?

The Built Environment:

The church and Community Centre are kept well. The National School is also well presented and was proudly flying its green flag. The Beautiful Bird was also well presented and it was good to see cleaning in progress outside the building during our adjudication. We visited the Seymour Mausoleum and Lisheen Cemetery, both are important sites which we recognise require much effort to maintain but we thought the Mausoleum could do with some weeding.

Landscaping:

Landscaping in the village has improved; in particular we liked the Patrician Statue and colourful blue planting around it. The granite picnic table and the Diarmuid and Grainne statue are appropriate, no inscription was present on adjudication day and we feel an inscription on the statue base would provide interesting information to the visitor and passer by alike. You have a good mixture of mature and new trees and a number of properties had hanging baskets, tubs and boxes on display.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have the potential to greatly increase your marks in this section, with the stone walls, hedgerows, and mature trees and the river offering opportunities to establish diverse habitats. Have you considered erecting wildlife display signs along the river on the way to the Seymour Mausoleum? We noticed a bird box at the National School - perhaps for next year the school children could also prepare something in relation to the

local wildlife that you could include with your application, this would also give them “hands-on” involvement with the Tidy Towns competition.

Litter Control:

The village was litter-free with the exception of the water feature with the pump has harbouring a small amount of litter on the day of inspection. The Bring Banks beside the Community Hall were well maintained.

Waste Minimisation:

Waste Minimisation is a new section of the competition that was introduced in 2006 aimed at minimising and preventing the generation of waste in the village. This is an area where you have enormous potential to increase your marks. The green flag concept fits in well to this concept and we are acknowledging the recent work of the school by awarding you some marks in this category. For next year it may be helpful for you to consult the guidance document produced by the Department entitled “How to win the Race against Waste in your Community” to allow you to gain more marks. Consider engaging with the local schools and businesses, how about holding a waste awareness day or adopting the local Bring Bank? May be for next year you could work with the local school on a waste minimisation project?

Tidiness:

The problem with dereliction is a challenging one to tackle but we urge you to continue to present any neglected buildings as best you can without causing problems. You may be interested to know that other villages tackle this problem by holding open community meetings, one-to-one meetings with property owners or sending a letter to each household requesting that dereliction be dealt with. There are a number of derelict buildings in the village, including the properties at the road junction at the Diarmuid and Grainne statue and along the main thoroughfare. Some unpainted boundary walls also exist.

Residential Areas:

We visited the Respond Housing scheme which was well maintained. The majority of residential properties were well presented in the village with colourful window boxes and hanging baskets. As mentioned last year infill development within the village should be prioritised over ribbon development.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads to the village were well presented. The approach from Portumana with its maturing trees creates excellent impact while the Ballinasloe approach is enhanced by stone walls and well maintained verges.

General Impression:

You recognise that Lawrencetown has not been touched yet by the building boom. Now is the time to formulate a phased development plan to chart the way forward in the future and ensure you are moving in the right direction. The village town has the ability to score highly in the competition and hopefully with now with continued momentum your plans will come to fruition over the following years. For next year please bear in mind that the more information supplied with your application the easier it is for the adjudicators to award marks. It is possible that you might be doing yourselves out of additional marks in some sections because of the paucity of information supplied in some sections. You have raised your marks this year in a number of categories due to your efforts and we hope that this will act as a stimulus for further action and securing further involvement from the local community. Overall you should be pleased with your efforts – congratulations and best wishes for next year.