

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Lahinch** Ref: **80**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **244**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>244</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you Lahinch TidyTowns Committee for your entry on behalf of Lahinch village to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome.

Thanks to your Committee of eight people involved in TidyTowns activities in Lahinch. You are all obviously dedicated community people who take the time and effort to attend your mainly monthly meetings in addition to other TidyTowns activities. Your Committee and your partner organisations, Clare County Council and Lahinch Community Council, are doing very worthwhile work for Lahinch, a village with a population of less than 1,000 people.

Thanks also for the submission including; Village Street map, Correspondence with County Council and local Residents and also the church newsletters.

Well done on the ongoing contact with the national school and well done to the school on their involvement in recycling.

The work of local people, residents, business people, schoolchildren and others is to be praised. Well done on your energy and commitment. A recommendation is for the Committee to prepare a new short three-year plan on TidyTowns activities to say 2011. This will help focus on specific targets and objectives under the umbrella of TidyTowns activities. As part of this plan and to help the town compare its performance in TidyTowns competitions a recommendation to consider is a visit to other towns that are high performers in the 2007 and 2008 national competition. A further recommendation is to attempt to increase the number of people willing to serve on the TidyTowns Committee. Your present Committee of eight would benefit by the introduction of new members to help spread the workload and take on additional duties.

I wish you all the best with your Tidy Town activities into the future.

### **The Built Environment:**

One of the challenges facing seaside villages like Lahinch is to manage ongoing change for the benefit of the residents and visitors alike. This change involves many organisations including the statutory and voluntary bodies. This is not an easy task. To date the village seems to be coping well in its development of residential areas but less so with regard to some commercial developments. The beauty of Lahinch is unique. The combined attractions of the sea, the beach, the world renowned Golf Club and Links, the traditional seaside village atmosphere, are mainly the reasons Lahinch attracts many thousands of visitors annually. The objective is to retain a healthy balance between developments that affect all these various elements of what makes Lahinch so wonderful as a place to live, work and spend leisure time.

Some recent and ongoing developments on the Promenade are having a negative effect on the beauty of the village. Why are some buildings left in a state of dereliction? Others need annual necessary maintenance and painting to counteract the effects of the coastal weather. The Promenade Car Park area close to the Golf Course resembled a building site. The new Lifeguard Hut is a work in progress. While obviously this will be a very worthwhile safety facility when complete, but when work continues into high season this takes from the tidiness of the Promenade.

Due to ongoing change there is a wide variety in the quality of the built environment in the village. Those downtown buildings that impressed included: The Links Holiday Village; the Golf and Leisure Hotel; the Garda Station; Sancta Maria Hotel; Atlantic Hotel; Shamrock Inn; Kenny Woollen Mills; Donogh O'Loughlin; Kennedy's Centra; the Cornerstone Bar; The Design Lodge; the Lahinch Golf Club; the Golfers Shop; Kenny's Pub; the Church; Waves Restaurant, Marine Lodge B&B; Oifig an Phoist; Lahinch Classics; Lahinch Bookshop; Lahinch Seaworld and Leisure Centre. Well done to all.

The premises of P.Frawley has a charm all of its own.

There are some magnificent individual houses and excellent residential and holiday estates throughout the village. In addition the many wonderful B&Bs provide an excellent service and the display of colour around these houses is to be admired. Many of the townhouses look well with bright colours on the front walls. Well done.

### **Landscaping:**

Well done on the landscaping at the individual houses and B&Bs on the outskirts of and in the town and at the residential estates, this is of a high standard. In general the residential housing estates are nicely landscaped and well maintained. The landscaping on the Ennistymon approach road is impressive.

As stated in previous adjudication reports there is a need for more colour on Main Street. Additional planted hanging baskets would improve the streetscape.

While there are many premises with nice displays of flowers outside, it is the opinion of this adjudicator that there is room for much improvement in the overall display of appropriate flowers and shrubs in the village. The Pay /Display Car Park on the Liscannor Road is devoid of any landscaping or floral displays. The seated areas at the Promenade Car Park would benefit by better landscaping and grass maintenance.

The planting and container display of flowers on the green triangle with signs for Ennistymon/Miltown Malbay is a nice feature.

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in their individual premises.

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

There was an absence of Wildlife Interpretative Signs and Display Panels in the village. Perhaps I missed them. A suggestion might be to contact the Heritage Council and the Wildlife Ranger to assist in the establishment of further appropriate wildlife projects for Lahinch. The future plans for erection of some Environmental Boards is noted. There is one board now derelict on display at the Promenade Car Park, its purpose is not obvious.

As stated above, the combined attractions of the sea, the beach, the world renowned Golf Club and Links dating back to 1892, the traditional seaside village atmosphere, are mainly the reasons Lahinch attracts many thousands of visitors annually. Every effort should be made to maximise the benefits and take advantage of the beauty of these wonderful features of Lahinch. Congratulations to those involved with the national school pupils and their interest in the natural wildlife amenities at the beach.

Also congratulations to all on the award of the Blue Flag 2008.

**Litter Control:**

Lahinch residential areas and holiday villages were mainly clear of litter on the day of my visit. Well done on the involvement with the Schools on anti-litter campaigns, including the Beach clean up of 11th May last. The energy and commitment of the parents, teachers, staff and pupils involved is to be applauded and praised. Well done on your good work. The village main streets looked mainly litter free.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The purpose of this category is to encourage TidyTowns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Projects could include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean-up events.

The further involvement of the school in these waste minimisation activities is to be congratulated.

The four Recycling bins at the Promenade Car Park are in a poor state.

**Tidiness:**

In general, Lahinch residential areas deserve great credit for their own areas of responsibility and for maintaining a tidy image for Lahinch.

However some commercial buildings would benefit from painting their front of premises. Flagpoles require some paint. The front of derelict premises should be disguised or camouflaged to create a more positive image. The Pay and Display Car Park on the Liscannor road looked untidy, this was not helped by the presence of a derelict caravan/prefab building with the name of the Lahinch Community Council and Fas displayed on it. There was also some rubble left in the corner of the car park.

Well done on your efforts with the County Council to tidy up certain downtown locations. However there are still some problem areas. In the laneway at the side of the large commercial building linking the Promenade and the Car Park there was a storage room being used to store many full black plastic rubbish bags. The front door was open and this was in a very untidy state.

**Residential Areas:**

The residential estates and the holiday villages throughout Lahinch are in a very good condition, well presented houses and lovely landscaping and gardens. Those that impressed included; Summercove; Station Road Estate; An Creag; Fairways Holiday Homes; Atlantic Coast Holiday Homes; and the many excellent B&Bs throughout the village.

The engraving of the train depicting the West Clare Railway as part of the Station Road bilingual street sign is impressive.

Many of the individual houses and the B&Bs on the outskirts of the village are top quality with some lovely gardens.

Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas. The older townhouses help retain the small town character and seaside charm of Lahinch.

Well done to all residents for the great effort.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The village was in general clean and tidy with some nice grassed landscaping which could be improved by further planted hanging baskets. The approach road from Ennistymon is in a good condition and welcomes the visitor. There are also nice grassed areas with trees and appropriate landscaping. The engraving of the golfer, cliffs, sand dunes and the sea on the Lahinch stone sign is most appropriate.

The Liscannor exit road is well maintained with appropriate stone walls and footpath along the Golf Course.

One suggested area of improvement for discussion and consideration in the medium to longer term is the removal of overhead wires from streets.

The road surface at the Promenade should be better.

**General Impression:**

Congratulations to Lahinch on your 2008 entry to TidyTowns. Credit to your Committee and your partner

organisations for your efforts on behalf of the village. Much excellent work is ongoing in the village. Lahinch is the envy of many in Ireland with its wonderful natural and built environment. The beach area is a wonderful natural amenity loved by bathers, walkers and surfers alike. The Golf Club and Links is simply magnificent. Congratulations to all associated with this Club which has left such a positive mark on the game of golf and indeed on Lahinch itself dating back to 1892.

Other developments in the village must aim to leave a similar positive impact for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

I look forward to further visits to your lovely seaside village.