

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Lissycasey** Ref: **1741**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **234**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>234</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you St. Mary's Community Development for your entry on behalf of Lissycasey to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome to the 2008 TidyTowns competition and well done on your detailed submission on this your second year of entry.

Thanks to your Committee of eight people who take the time and effort to attend your monthly meetings, in addition to other TidyTowns events. Your Committee and partnership organisations are doing very worthwhile work for Lissycasey, a village with a population of less than 1,000 people. Well done to all concerned.

Thanks also for the detailed village map.

Your ongoing partnership work with many organisations including, County Council, Fás, Rural Resource, and the local community including the School, and the local businesses, and all those that have supported your activities is of obvious benefit to all. This is a vital ingredient in the success of TidyTowns activities.

The work of local people, residents, business people, schoolchildren and others is to be praised. It's easy to see that your first year's experience in 2007 has encouraged your TidyTowns Committee to continue the great effort into the current year. Well done on your energy and commitment. A recommendation is for the Committee to prepare a very short three-year plan on TidyTowns activities to say 2011. This plan would help you focus on agreed targets and need only be set out in short bullet points and would not exceed a page or two.

I wish you all the best with your planned activities into the future. Keep up the great work.

### **The Built Environment:**

Lissycasey is a lovely village that stretches over two miles of lovely rural countryside of West Clare. Some nice roadside landscaping helps highlight the many and varied buildings that make up Lissycasey.

Buildings that looked well on the day of my visit included: the Post Office; the Fergus Credit Union; Fanny O'Dea's; the Church and its splendid grounds; the School; Daybreak Shop with its green lawn; Talty's Mace Store; the Boree Log; some lovely individual houses and the impressive residential estates.

Of course there are areas that could be improved, including the Maxol Retail Station which now appears closed and in need of some renovation; the petrol pumps at Fanny O' Dea's also seemed in need of refurbishment as indeed did the old Telefon Kiosk. This is a nice feature but only if its refurbished.

Congratulations on the amount and the quality of the works carried out to date; these include; The Old Dispensary; The Church and the new landscaping; the Statue; new patio area at the Senior Citizen's houses; and the planting of new trees and cleanup of the cemetery area.

Many of the private residential houses in the wide roadway have wonderful colourful fronts, which add so much to the positive impact of the village.

The sculptures also looked well to this adjudicator. These included; the Roadside Horse in the Stable sculpture although the significance of this sculpture was not apparent to this adjudicator. The sculpture of the two schoolchildren was also attractive but again it requires a little caption to explain the story.

### **Landscaping:**

The high standard set in 2007, your first year of entry, has been continued into 2008. Well done on your efforts. The ornamental horse in his stable and all the excellent adjacent landscaping look so very well. Nice colour and nice gravel paths in this area. The wonderful new raised gravelled landscaped area at the Church grounds is looking splendid. It deserves special mention and credit to all concerned. The new green areas at the School are so worthwhile. The seat and the wooden statues opposite the Credit Union look well.

But the special memory of Lissycasey that this adjudicator will take with him for many years is a tree. Not just any tree but a most magnificent Oak, some hundreds of years old, that deserves to be the centrepiece of any village or town. Some simple cutting of the surrounding sloped grassed area that rises to a farmhouse above highlights this Oak. The canopy of the tree is simply magnificent and long may it be a feature of Lissycasey. It's a gift of nature and one that should be the subject of a visit by the local schoolchildren on an annual basis. Guard that tree well . It should be the subject of a Interpretative Panel to explain the story of the Oak and its wildlife habitat.

The front of some premises impressed with new paved / and seated landscaped areas. Well done to Leonard's DayBreak Shop.

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in the individual elements that gel to make Lissycasey look well. The residential areas of the town also put so much effort into their own gardens and the result is mainly impressive and of benefit.

Overall, well done.

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

The visit to the Abhainn Sliabh Cascades was most enjoyable on one of the very few fine days of the Summer. This area has such potential as a visitor attraction centre for locals and tourists. The work done to date is very impressive, including the three-way bridge; the nice raised landscaped area, and the entrance gateway and stile. The falls were in full flow and quite impressive. Viagra Falls indeed!! Some wildlife Interpretative Panels on display would be really worthwhile. The indigenous wild flowers added to the peaceful scene. One negative was the empty plastic container apparently dumped in the river. Well done to all concerned on this excellent project. One point of information, there was reference made in your submission to a supporting letter about the Cascades, however this letter was not actually part of the pack.

The ongoing development of the Cascades project is to be encouraged.

The very impressive Oak tree, referred to above, is an asset for Lissycasey. It's a gift of nature and one that should be the subject of a visit by the local schoolchildren on an annual basis. It should be the subject of an Interpretative Panel to explain the story of the Oak and its wildlife habit. Consider contact with the Heritage Council on these projects.

Lissycasey is well served by the development of an excellent footpath/road structure through the village. This is great for the walker, jogger and those people that appreciate these facilities. Some further potential for The

Sli na Slainte walks perhaps?

The involvement of the schoolchildren in appropriate projects such as your Cascades and the suggested Oak tree project is so very worthwhile.

**Litter Control:**

Lissycasey looked mainly litter free on the day of my visit. This is a difficult task due to the high traffic volumes however the efforts of all concerned are to be applauded.

**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 drawing up of a minimisation programme in association with the County Council is something to consider.

The Green Flag Schools Programme is a super programme. The involvement of the private businesses and residents in recycling initiatives is also to be congratulated.

**Tidiness:**

In general Lissycasey looked tidy on the day of my visit. There are of course always pockets of untidiness that could be better. These include the removal of some pieces of wild grass on the roadside and near the Church pedestrian crossing.

**Residential Areas:**

The older houses help retain the small village character and charm of Lissycasey and these are maintained to the best possible standards. The newer residential estates look quite splendid with some nice colour selection for painting the front of these houses.

Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The new signs to the Cascades are noted. The access roads to Kilrush and to Ennis looked neat and tidy and the surfaces are good.

I failed to see any evidence of cyclepaths around and about Lissycasey

The village was in general clean and tidy with some nice landscaping by planted hanging baskets.

**General Impression:**

Congratulations again to Lissycasey on your entry to TidyTowns and well done on the progress made on your many projects during 2008. Keep up this excellent work and engage as many as possible new members to your Committee. Also get assistance and help from as many State Organisations as is possible. Much experience rests within these agencies.

Good luck for the future. I look forward to further visits to your lovely village