

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Lucan** Ref: **173**  
County: **Dublin(South)** Mark: **264**  
Category: **H** Date(s): **07/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>264</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

You are very welcome to this year's TidyTowns competition and thank you for your completed entry form and associated materials. Well done on your ongoing efforts to engage your local schools, businesses and the broader community.

### **The Built Environment:**

The buildings surrounding the Square are generally all in good keep and well presented on the day of adjudication. St Mary's Presbyterian Church was very tidy and well maintained. The Italian Embassy presented some wonderful cobblestone areas. La Blanca appeared to be undergoing renovation and this will look good once it is completed. It is hoped that the clock will be repaired as part of this. The Square presents some lovely old stone buildings and this area is very traditional in its appeal. It is hoped that something is planned for the derelict shop at the bus stop. It is obvious that some effort has been made here by whitening out the windows, but some work on the tiles would also assist as it unfortunately does detract from the surrounding area. The Methodist Church was well presented and kept. Courtneys Hotel with its thatch roof is a great feature in this area. Kennys of Lucan was looking well with its hanging baskets that were in keeping with the traditional feel of the area. And the Garda Station is a real treasure

### **Landscaping:**

It was wonderful to see all the trees throughout the area. And well done on the bike racks in town encouraging people to cycle. We were also pleased to see the park bench by the river in the square. Benches such as this create a communal space where residents can relax and socialise and really adds to the village feel of Lucan. The shrub landscaping that spells out "Lucan" is quite overgrown. It would be good if this could be trimmed back to make the sign legible again. We understand you are currently undertaking work to develop the banks

of the River Liffey. This will be a wonderful area for walks and a great environment to encourage biodiversity in the area. We look forward to your plans to reinstate the landscaping on the entry areas once the bypass is completed.

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

It was great to see the ducks in the Lucan River. Have you considered erecting an information board showing information on the ducks and the fish that can be found. Bird boxes could also be added to this area to encourage further wildlife. We look forward to your developments at the River Liffey and hopefully this will include biodiversity and wildlife projects. You may wish to work with schools on these projects as it is a great way to educate children on their natural surrounds as well as making them feel more responsible for their natural environment. Projects could include biodiversity surveys and a programme you might like to look at is the Heritage in Schools program, a collaborative programme funded by the Heritage Council and administered by the Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO).

#### **Litter Control:**

The main Square contained very little litter. There was a small bit of litter around the Bank of Ireland. There was also some litter under the bridge in the square. All litter looked recent so it is evident that regular cleanups occur. Well done to all concerned.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

You have a very good score under this category for ongoing activities. Due to the number of hospitality venues in the area you may also wish to look at being involved in the Green Hospitality Award. This is a step-by-step environmental management programme specifically designed for the hospitality industry and is supported by the EPA. It is designed to help reduce waste in this sector and encourage better environmental practices. You could also look to run a local competition for hotels and restaurants in your area to encourage further waste reduction.

#### **Tidiness:**

The main square area was very tidy as were the approach roads into Lucan. Even the public phones were in good working order. The Bridge over the River Liffey needs to have some attention and it is not known if this is part of your development plan. The paint is peeling and the wire that has been placed in there for safety is unappealing. Hopefully an alternative can be found.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Residential areas of Lucan were well presented. It is good to see the preservation of so many heritage buildings and that the area has been kept to a traditional feel. The creation of "Best Street", "Best Garden" or "Tidiest Estate" awards can assist your community to start working towards the Tidy Towns competition. These awards can assist members of your community to focus on a small task and strengthen neighbourhoods. Creating a sense of community by having neighbors work together is very important in an urban area.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

On the whole, roads and footpaths were in a good condition throughout Lucan. Your plan to introduce "Welcome to Lucan" signs in different languages is a unique idea and will be beneficial in helping non-Irish residents and tourists feel welcome to the area.

#### **General Impression:**

Lucan is a beautiful hidden village that features a wonderful community orientated square and many wonderful stone buildings. There is definitely a strong community feel to the area and we wish you well with the plans for the river area and look forward to seeing them next year. The best of luck in your endeavours.