

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Laytown** Ref: **1484**  
County: **Meath** Mark: **199**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **06/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	24
The Built Environment	50	22
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>199</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Laytown is most welcome back to the Tidy Town fraternity after a long absence. We were delighted to receive your completed entry form, supply of informative pictures and the most useful map.

An attractive seaside town, where the most significant resource is the superb long beach. The newly installed Voyager sculpture is a fitting centrepiece to your long, well laid out promenade. The anchor installation further along also caught the eye as did the delightful cottage on the seafront at the southern end. There continues to be a difficulty with garish, plastic fascia signs and over a period it is hoped that some amelioration of their impact might be secured. The well presented Cottage Inn, freshly painted attracted the eye.

The Committee is invited to discuss options with the various stakeholders and the local authority with a view to drawing up a three to five year rolling Tidy Towns Programme. This should identify the attainable objectives, indicate the lead agency involved in their implementation and, finally, establish a time frame within which they should be achieved. It has been found very beneficial to launch this programme at a public meeting with a view to inviting the community at large to accept ownership of it and play a part in its implementation.

### **The Built Environment:**

The railway station was in general well presented with fine buildings. The Laytown Races centre looking slightly tired. The St. Mary's Church had an unusual and innovative use of the facade of the earlier church it replaced, linking it by a glass atrium to the new and larger structure. The East Meath Credit Union was well presented as was the Garda Station nearby. Pat's Supermarket was orderly as was the Creevelea Nursing Home which was well presented.

The abandoned building beside this latter detracted from the overall scene.

### **Landscaping:**

The beach being the focal point is also the primary facility and attraction in the area. The Voyager Installation is certainly an interesting talking point. We welcome the Slí na Sláinte, the viewing area and picnic tables. The trees are maturing well in their sea salt laden environment. However, the grass along the seafront is only roughly cut and its presentation might be improved. The seats in front of Pat's Supermarket and the other facilities there were well presented.

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

The bird life on show at the beach provided a non stop aerial performance on the day of adjudication. Seagulls, crows, and other sea birds were to the fore in a continuous and entertaining display. In recent years additional weight has been given to activities designed to promote an awareness and appreciation of bird and wildlife. Creation of the conditions that will encourage their presence in the area involves initially the establishment of the essential food chain and this can best be arranged by the planting of suitable native, berry bearing shrubs. The identifying of suitable locations for bird boxes, feeding table and natural habitat is an important link in the chain. Secure the services of a local bird life/wild life enthusiast, perhaps a member of Birdwatch Ireland who may be willing to assist by drafting a suitable programme for you.

Quite often Schools are willing to set aside a portion of their land for development as a wild life habitat and this exposure to nature by the pupils can be the start of a life long interest, enriching their lives and the locations where they live.

### **Litter Control:**

The daily litter patrols are working as, broadly speaking the presentation of the area was almost litter free. There were adequate supply of bins along the promenade but a bin is needed in the viewing/picnic area further along the front where there was considerable broken glass in evidence on the day of adjudication. Adequate bins were located along the strip where the Cottage Inn and Pat's Supermarket are situated.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This category is as much about getting the community to consider and implement methods of reducing the generation of waste in all its forms in the first place. Equally it is about recycling items where possible, ideally reusing where feasible, recycling wherever possible in order to reduce to the minimum the amount of waste that has to be carted to landfill sites. In that context we welcome the re-use of railway sleepers as appropriate car barriers along the beach.

It is appropriate for Laytown to seek the installation of a Recycling or Bring Centre to be located by the County Council within the centre in a suitable position. Please also consider the staging of Waste Seminars or Workshops at which the various techniques and procedures involved in appropriate waste management can be explored or discussed and hopefully implemented. Everyone benefits from a successful race against waste campaign.

### **Tidiness:**

Colourful but huge auction sign greets one on arrival in Laytown. The size and perhaps the duration has to be questioned. An amount of spoil behind the concrete seats and blocks along the seafront could easily be swept and removed. This would improve greatly the vista from the many cars parked along this way. The solid and suitable picnic tables in the viewing area could with advantage be repainted. The work in progress on the buildings, on the seafront are of a temporary nature. However do ensure that on completion plant, machinery and building materials are removed from the sites.

### **Residential Areas:**

Inchbay Houses looked well. There was a small amount of spoil along many of the roads in housing areas. Beach Park and Highfield both just 10 years old, were well presented as was Inchbay and Seaview. The long established St. Anthony's Villas and Marian Villas projected varying standard of presentation of individual houses, a number of which featured pleasant gardens. The Cul-de-sac, Beechgrove looked fresh while we did admire the stone nameplate at Beech Park

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

The welcome to Laytown sign was very impressive on the approach. Road surfaces generally were acceptable with verges and hedgerows appropriately presented. The railway bridge serves as a suitable clear point start for the village, providing a desirable divide point between the centre and the surrounding, rural countryside. The end of the village between it and Bettystown is similarly well identified.

**General Impression:**

Laytown is a significant seaside and dormitory town with a potentially very imposing seafront. Appropriate and well laid out arrangements are provided for car parking with access to the beach available from many locations. It would benefit from the erection of informative signs relating to the flora and fauna of the area. Perhaps a more rigorous approach to commercial signage should be considered. It is pleasant to welcome you again into the Tidy Towns Programme and all associated with this year's entry are applauded for their efforts and wished well in 2009.