

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lowertown** Ref: **685**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **225**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Lowertown TidyTowns Committee for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map. Your hand drawn sketch of the town which highlighted the places you regard as being most important for the TidyTowns Competition was a great help to the adjudicator. It is a pity that you did not include a 3-5 year plan. If you do not have one the exercise of compiling such a plan would clarify the vision you have for Lowertown over the next few years and would assist you in setting immediate and medium term targets for yourselves, would help you decide which local bodies and agencies would assist you with your aims. In a small village you are to be lauded for having people who care sufficiently to form a TidyTowns Committee. Furthermore, it is great to read that you have support in the community when the pressure of work comes on. The village has the appearance of a place that is cared for by its residents. In what ways do you engage with Clár and Leader. One is interested to see Foras na Gaeilge mentioned. Good to see that you connect with the school. What format does this contact take? One is really impressed by your experience of the competition. 'Taking ownership' is vital if one is to have the sense of pride which is so obvious in Lowertown.

The Built Environment:

There are so few buildings in Lowertown that the appearance of each is vital to the overall image. The Church is central to village activity and is beautifully presented. Its environs are a charm. The pointed walls to the front with the insets that break that straight line are a delight. While the information boards provide worthwhile information on Lowertown, keep them renewed. One of the display boards was empty on the day of adjudication. It is a joy to find Lowertown's past celebrated in the various items across from the Church. Mention of the forge, the post office and the dancing at the crossroads remind us that this was once an important place of commerce and social activity. The representations of all the above are beautifully presented. The Grotto is another feature of the built environment of Lowertown and in memory of laochra

Cogadh na Saoirse. Well done on the post office box. The school may now be unoccupied but it is respectfully maintained. The unoccupied house near the church, still sporting its now rusting satellite dish, is unfortunate. But to balance this the house beside the decking looks majestic in its yellow with green reveals.

Landscaping:

The signs of your green fingers are evident all over. The flower tubs at the Church wall add colour and personality to the parking area at the Church. Opposite the Church the flowers are again attractive. Yet the centre of the village would benefit from further tubs of summer colour. The tree planting mentioned in your submission is welcome.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on the measures outlined in your submission.

The Lowertown hinterland provides a magical mystery tour overlooking the sea, a wildlife fantasy land with few trees but islands and water. One feels that your group needs to be more pro-active in this section of the competition, identifying the local birds and beasts and identifying their habitats and needs.

Litter Control:

The village looked almost completely litter free. Considering the amount of passing traffic this is an achievement. The emphasis in the litter section is not just on collecting and organising clean-ups. These are important but creating awareness of litter reduction is equally important. As a next step in your fight against litter make reduction your key ambition.

Waste Minimisation:

One is most impressed by the waste minimisation activities of your committee. Information, creating awareness are key elements of waste minimisation. You understand that minimisation is the key here. What waste minimisation schemes could be introduced in the local farms?

Tidiness:

One is conscious that the introduction of traffic calming measures is beyond your influence, the traffic speed is a problem. Therefore it is important to keep pressure on whatever agencies make decisions. Yours is a lovely neat village, presented with great pride, but bedevilled by speeding traffic, some of it heavy traffic. Maybe improved landscaping at the Lowertown name stones might help also. The neat appearance of the area around the Church embodies the 'mórtas cine' of the people of Lowertown. Get rid of the unused post at the junction or paint it and put it to some use.

Residential Areas:

Houses along the road look beautiful and add to the village design, colour and overall appearance. When one travels towards the sea one discovers the big population in the hinterland, houses again presented with pride.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

One feels welcome to Lowertown, a great start. The road surface through the village is well maintained, possibly to the detriment of the quality of life of the residents! The house on the Goleen side sets the tone for one's visit, with its fine garden.

General Impression:

Before ever visiting Lowertown one felt impressed by the content and tone of your submission. The appearance of Lowertown reflects your submission. If only the traffic could be forced to slow down and show some respect for the villagers, the passers-by might experience that pride of place so evident when one stalls for a few minutes in Lowertown.

