

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Lucan** Ref: **173**  
County: **Dublin(South)** Mark: **269**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **19/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>269</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Lucan is welcome to the 2009 TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your submission. The support received from the community is admirable and well done on the expertise available to the committee for the involvement of schools. It is always a challenge to increase on the successes of previous years and the committee and community are to be congratulated on their record in this regard. Your adjudicator looks forward to the September canoe race.

### **The Built Environment:**

The majority of premises within the village are presented to a high standard and indeed there are a number of attractive buildings with their original architectural features still intact. Some attention might be given to shopfront presentation after business hours; streetscapes would be much improved if roller shutters were to be kept free of graffiti and internal lighting used to good effect for window displays at night behind lattice type shutters. It is important to keep signs at fascia level at an appropriate scale and a minimum number; about six were noted over the Centra premises in the village centre. Conways Garage/Coby Motors features poor enclosure to its roadside boundary and is a poor introduction to Lucan when entering from the north. In contrast both the Topaz and the Maxol garages and McDonalds are beautifully presented in respect of their curtilage areas and roadside boundaries. The canopy on the La Banca Restaurant premises is in need of attention whilst those on both The River Café and the Weir Tea Rooms are well maintained. Good luck with the implementation of planned projects.

### **Landscaping:**

Attractive tree lined entrances to Lucan are an excellent introduction to the town and prepare the visitor for the stately stand of mature trees along the river in the centre. All are complemented by colourful flower displays in shrubberies and containers at several locations around the town. The sucker growth might be removed from the bole of trees at the river to feature their handsome profile. Hard landscaping at the junction of Main Street and Sarsfield Park works well. No doubt the unplanted bed at an attractive namestone will be in bloom for next year's competition. The new shrubbery on the Adamstown road is a welcome addition.

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

The bright display of red berries on the stand of Rowan trees in Sarsfield Close is stunning and no doubt attracts a variety of bird life. A wildlife interpretive panel specific to Lucan should replace the general one in the river park in the town centre. Perhaps a nature trail could also be installed; the guided walks initiative of Lucan Demesne is laudable. The sizable duck population is a great attraction to passers by however the river bed must be maintained free of debris; at the time of adjudication the remains of a bicycle, two traffic cones and other bits were in evidence however this was contained to one section of the river and work accomplished to date is acknowledged. The buddleia bush was in full bloom and doing its job of attracting butterflies.

### **Litter Control:**

The overall standard of litter control in Lucan is excellent, this is due no doubt to the weekly litter patrols and the schools initiatives. The McDonalds staff are to be commended also for their contribution. Some litter was noted in the River Park, it appeared to be the remains of Take Away food from the previous (Saturday) night and consisted of chip bags, a beer can, a pizza box and an ice cream tub, two polystyrene cups were left on the bridge wall. A nearby litter bin was in need of improvement and graffiti featured on a bench. It is good to note that the committee is working to extend litter collections to weekends. No doubt collected litter is segregated for recycling.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done on the programme to achieve Green School status and on the circulation to local businesses a letter on the importance of waste minimisation. Some thought might be given to undertaking a community waste audit, perhaps a start could be made with the schools and then extended to the business community.

### **Tidiness:**

The overall appearance of Lucan is one of tidiness, however, walls and a gate at the top of the Adamstown road near the town centre are quite scruffy in appearance; the group of buildings here appear to have heritage value and no doubt will be handled sensitively. The car park at the river is in need of more regular sweeping, cigarette ends and green waste were the main culprits. Work on weed control, graffiti and election posters is acknowledged. Well done on the removal of redundant service poles.

### **Residential Areas:**

Well done on the emphasis on year round planting for seasonal interest and good luck with the further involvement of resident associations. The new residential development at Sarsfield Close / The Square complement the existing older stock of dwellings in Lucan and are being nicely maintained. Gandon Mews fits in less well in the choice of building materials, however, mature well maintained landscaping here is successful. The new apartment development on the Adamstown road is an attractive development and landscaping to its roadside boundary works well. Period dwellings in the town are presented to a varying standard; it is good to note the extent to which many dwellings still retain their original architectural features.

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

Road and footpath surfaces throughout the town are generally good. Street furniture looks well also especially the namestones and the granite bench in the centre. A nameplate however on the Old Hill was in need of cleaning on adjudication day and the balustrades of the old bridge in need of refurbishment, the refurbishment of the bridge is looked forward to. Car parking is well organised in the town centre. A service pole in Millbank with thirteen cables radiating in several directions should be removed or the cables retionalized if it lies within the town boundary.

**General Impression:**

Well done on yet another fine presentation of Lucan town. We wish the committee every success in the implementation of future projects.