

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lynwood Park Limerick** Ref: **2135**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **185**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	0	24
The Built Environment	50	0	26
Landscaping	50	0	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	10
Litter Control	50	0	27
Tidiness	30	0	18
Waste Minimisation	20	0	4
Residential Areas	40	0	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	25
General Impression	10	0	5
TOTAL MARK	400	0	185

Overall Development Approach:

Lynwood Park is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition as a first-time entrant. It is hoped that you will find the contest to be helpful in building community spirit and in making material improvements to your environment. You did not include a hand drawn map in your entry and it seems that the link to Google maps did not print with your electronic form. The adjudicator was thus without a map which is unfortunate. The advantage of a hand drawn map is that you can mark on it clearly your local landmarks and the locations of projects that have been undertaken. Your area is a suburban estate and as such would benefit from reaching out to other areas in your neighbourhood so that you enter as a coherent region. This additional support would have benefits in that you would be better able to address issues in your broader locality.

You have 12 on your committee and this is a good number for a small estate. Does everyone know that you have entered the contest? Leaflet drops are good but door-to-door, face-to-face contact is considered the most effective form of communication. It is good that you have made contact with Limerick City Council and clearly this is paying off for you. Are there other sporting associations or social groups that could be involved? Involving your local school brings huge rewards as many are at the forefront of minimising environmental impacts through the green flag program. Does your school have a green flag? How can you liaise with students? E.g. through joint projects or awareness raising.

Do try to complete projects under all the headings of the competition as this is how points are awarded. You are encouraged to refer to the Tidy Towns manual which is full of useful information on how to proceed.

The Built Environment:

The adjudicator took a guess at the back lanes that were referred to in your report. Some before and after photos would have been useful here in showing the adjudicator the impact that your work had. These seem quite clean on adjudication day and certainly no large-scale dumping was in evidence.

Landscaping:

Older suburban areas tend to benefit from mature trees and Lynwood Park is no exception. These tend to be sycamore and maple, which tend to be hard wearing but are dark and uniform in colour.

If undertaking new planting try to include a range of tree species for variety. The triangular green area is nicely kept but is neglected from landscaping point of view.

Another two large green areas near Spar are well maintained although there is good potential here for more. A dying tree needs some attention. An area of soil in the central reservation is just waiting for some plants!

Overall there did not seem to be any landscaped areas in the estate so this would seem to be a high priority for your entry in 2013.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You did not enter any information under this heading. This category is intended to encourage communities to greater appreciate their natural heritage. Even in suburban areas wildlife can be encouraged or may even already be present in natural habitats such as hedgerows. To thrive birds and insects need food and shelter and this is best provided through encouraging native vegetation. You could do some research into the differences between native and non-native plants. Native trees such as rowan, hawthorn and cherry should be planted in preference to maple and lime. You could hold a wildlife gardening workshop for those of you who wants to attract garden birds. Why not get the school involved in creating a butterfly garden or doing a survey of the local park? There are lots of fun activities that could be done here.

Litter Control:

This category is as much about how you manage the issue of litter as it is to do with conditions on the ground. Do you carry out routine litter patrols? Do you have a roster within your group? You could take part in the national spring clean, run by An Taisce, which is a great event for getting people out. The school can participate through helping with patrols or raising awareness through art. Your efforts to address dog fouling through the Limerick City Council leaflet campaign are noted.

Litter control was to a high standard throughout the estate although the green areas had attracted plastic bottles, cans and crisp wrappers. Perhaps extra dedicated patrols are needed here. Dog fouling is definitely a problem however.

Tidiness:

The estate is generally very tidy and you have no major issues to contend with. Some graffiti on a bare concrete wall could easily be painted over. A traffic cone is covering a tree stump in the green and this looks untidy. Some signage is in need of attention so it would be worthwhile carrying out an audit to identify which ones need to be addressed.

Waste Minimisation:

Do note that this category is distinct from litter control. Here the contest tries to draw communities' attention towards the growing problem of waste management. We live in a throwaway society but on a planet with limited resources there really is no 'away'. You could do a survey to find out cumulatively how much waste is generated by your estate. Where is it go? What is composed of? With this knowledge you can then set about targeted projects to minimise waste. Recycling is popular, have you local facilities? However it is only fourth in preference under the waste pyramid after prevention, minimisation and re-use. You could hold a waste minimisation seminar with Limerick City Council to come up with concrete projects that could be carried out by your residents.

Residential Areas:

Most of the homes in Lynwood Park are presented to a very high standard with well painted facades or dash

of varying colours. Boundary walls are variable, do those who are unable to maintain their surrounds get help from your group?

Many attractive gardens were admired especially the wonderful display of roses in number 12, number 17 and number 32.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrance to Lynwood Park is marked by attractive bilingual name plates. These are of conservation value and it is nice to see them looking so well. Boundary walls here do need some attention though, a coat of paint would be of great benefit. Like many estates of this vintage footpaths are in a poor state of repair. Perhaps you could work with Limerick City Council on addressing this. Roads within the estate do not seem to be named and perhaps this could be addressed also.

General Impression:

We are delighted that Lynwood Park has made its first entry to the Tidy Towns contest. It is hoped that this is just the start for your group and that you will come back in 2013 having completed a range of projects. Best of luck!