

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leixlip**

Ref: **376**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **281**

Category: **G**

Date(s): **09/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	42	43
The Built Environment	50	33	34
Landscaping	50	36	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	32	33
Litter Control	50	30	31
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	9	11
Tidiness	30	16	17
Residential Areas	40	33	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	34
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	272	281

Overall Development Approach:

Leixlip is welcomed to the 2013 TidyTowns Competition in this your jubilee year. Thank you for participating and submitting your entry and helpful map. You appear to have a good committee and a large number of volunteers to call on when available. Your communication by texting saves time and paper which is encouraged by the TidyTowns. Your website has also been noted and is certainly worth a visit. Your assistance from Kildare County Council through funding and other assistance is important in planning your objectives. The sponsorship you obtain from local businesses and the fundraising organised by the committee are all an important means of successfully developing your town in the competition. Working with youth groups and the Green School Initiative is also very important. Having major employers such as Intel and Hewlett Packard is a major boost for the area. Now that you have obtained the assistance of TUS workers, it will be a great help to the committee with work on projects.

The Built Environment:

Leixlip is still a very busy town despite the bypass. It is good to revisit towns like this and find how much they have developed. Some of the old landmarks are still in operation but sadly some are closed, a sign of the times. Having passed the bustling area of Intel where work on a new entrance is in progress, the magnificent Church on the hill and the school adjacent were visited. The fine planters outside looked superb. As noticed on the gate this is where it all happens, where your committee meet. The Scouts Den was the next stop which included a pleasant river walk. The adjudicator stopped at Darkie Morans for some refreshments, then on by Da Vinci both of these buildings well presented. The newly refurbished gates at St. Marys Church were noted. The river walk or Arthurs walk was admired; the Arthur Guinness Information Board in the paved area is a gem and would certainly attract visitors. The Court Yard Hotel, Arthur Guinness Square, Murphy's Pub, St. Catherine's Park and Fire Station form part of the streetscape were all admired. The Salmon Leap Inn sadly closed but has been made look attractive. The empty building on Main Street was also admired. The way your committee are dealing with empty buildings is applauded. This building was looking so much better with the photographs in the window, a superb idea. Confey was also visited, a small town in itself. The schools and shopping area here along with Confey cemetery all form part of this pleasant area.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is superb with new Meitheal Logo on boxes on the bridge all well planted. The roundabouts were

admired something noticed by the adjudicator in the county; there are different novel ways of presenting roundabouts than just planting. It makes the roundabouts more interesting and attractive on entering the town. The mass steps down to the Scouts Den were admired after repairs, they lead to a lovely area of pleasant all year round landscaping. This all leads to the impressive landscaping at the triangle. Slan is another nice piece of work. Outside the superb GAA complex there is very attractive landscaping. There are many planters and hanging baskets throughout the town and areas of all year round planting, all bringing colour to the town. The Fire Station was looking splendid and rose cottage looked like a picture postcard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The town lends itself to a natural habitat for wildlife. The riverside provides a natural growth haven for wildlife. The river walk is a lovely nature walk and amenity for the community and visitors to the town. Brewery lane is another natural area. The type of planting along the Scouts Den attracts butterflies and other wildlife. The bird boxes were noted. The triangle at cedar Park is a lovely project in a splendid area to watch grow and mature. Along the canal there is also plenty of plant growth and it too provides a lovely walk.

Litter Control:

Your campaign combatting litter with regular clean-ups, creating awareness among schools, advertising your campaign in newsletter and on signs around the town shows that your committee have a good policy in place. Creating awareness as you have done through Confey Youth Club Poster Competition is another way to heighten public awareness. On the day of adjudication some litter was noticed at the Scouts Den. The town itself was generally clear, well done on your work in this category.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This category has caused problems for groups in the past. It is about cutting down on the amount of waste produced in the community, like your green waste shredding facilities, this way once the waste is shredded it can be used on beds. There are several more ways of reducing waste and save the community money. This category should also look at resource efficiency in general areas such as water energy and transport, the community needs to work together on this. Saving rain water and using it for watering purposes saves energy. Likewise the reuse of books and clothes or bring and buy sales can help generate money to fund projects. Recycling is also part of this category, glass bottles one of the items reusable. The list is endless and your committee as outlined in your entry will certainly have no problem identifying ways of reducing waste. Your town have nine registered Green School Programmes and if you work closely as you are, and consult the TidyTowns handbook, reducing waste will be achieved. Well done to all the schools and their teachers for their work on the Green Schools Programme.

Tidiness:

Matt Goff Bridge is looking much better for this year's adjudication. This year there were some areas of untidiness nothing major. Some signs needed cleaning or replacing. A couple of areas at Oaklands West, the stop sign and ramp ahead sign need cleaning. On the road from Intel there is a school sign hidden by shrubbery which needs cutting back. At the bridge where the hanging baskets are, there is a rusty gate which looks untidy. Well done on your use of the Irish language on signs. Graffiti did not seem too bad, one or two areas spotted however.

Residential Areas:

The many housing estates through the town, too many to visit were all well presented. The Tidy Estate Competition and Adopt an Area are good ways of encouraging residents to maintain their own areas. It is also good to receive sponsorship from local businesses for these competitions. Sample of estates visited were Ryvale which had a nice landscaped entrance, green areas and trees. Rockingham, Oaklands, River forest and Woodside at Confey all were well presented with good landscaping and green areas. The Mall on Main Street was also admired as was the nice stone house nestled beside Intel. This shows that the community have pride in their town and area, well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads into Leixlip with well-presented roundabouts, nice welcome signs, neat verges and hedges were well maintained. The bridges are a lovely feature of the town and were nicely decorated with hanging baskets and planters of flowers on the parapets. The boundary walls in places could be painted. The wooden green paling of the school at Confey needed painting. Bollards looked good. The Slan Sign as adjudicator left was admired.

General Impression:

This is a town revisited after a time lapse that showed major signs of development. Your work is very noticeable and it is good to see your new logo on plant boxes which will promote your group and highlight the good work you are doing. Thanks for your participation in this year's completion and continued success in the future.

