

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lucan** Ref: **173**
County: **Dublin(South)** Mark: **283**
Category: **C** Date(s): **10/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	50	39	39
Landscaping	50	41	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31	31
Litter Control	50	32	32
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	9	9
Tidiness	30	19	19
Residential Areas	40	31	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34	34
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	283	283

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Lucan Tidy Towns Committee to the 2013 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. Your submission comprises the entry form, your 3 year plan and photos. Your population puts you in the small town category. With a committee of 25 members you have enough to plan and implement a high workload. The schedule of your meetings – formal and informal seems adequate. The formation of South Dublin Tidy Towns Together is a commendable initiative. We wish it continuing success. Well done on your fund raising from the Lions Club and South Dublin County Council. Your partnership with Lucan Girl Guides is to your mutual benefit. In communicating, your use of first media, radio, social media and the St Patricks Day Parade is clearly effective.

We note that your contacts with local schools are informal. Your comments about the benefits of the competition are well made, particularly the increasing support from local businesses. Working with the Lucan Village Network seems to be the way forward. We wish Lucan Tidy Towns Committee continued success in the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition.

The Built Environment:

Only 1 of the 3 projects listed in this category belongs here – derelict buildings. The other 2 belong in the Tidiness category. Both derelict buildings are getting treatment close to that recommended in the Tidy Towns Handbook. The religious buildings would be part of your Heritage Trail. Last year's adjudicator had the benefit of your Heritage Trail booklet, this year's adjudicator did not. If you have surplus copies may I suggest that you include a copy with next year's entry. Lucan has a rich heritage of built environment. The map you supply is useful for locating each year's projects but not for locating built heritage. Of the religious buildings St Andrews Church of Ireland Church deserves a visit, not least because it is open and welcomes visitors. Its interior is beautifully painted and the design is unusual. The Church, parish centre and stone seat on the footpath are all well presented.

Lucan Presbyterian Church has an interesting design and the Methodist Church is neat, tidy. St Mary's Church also looks well as does the parish centre. Schools also enhance the village. St Andrews National School is a single storey design which is clean, tidy. No Green Flag. St Marys Boys National School has no Green Flag either. Well maintained football pitch beside the school. Scoil Mhuire National School – 2 Green Flags. Well done

to all concerned. St Joseph's College Secondary Girls School – Presentation Convent, 1 Green Flag. Flower beds, trees along road frontage. Well presented. Finally, opposite the Church of Ireland is a distinctive building with a plaque which reads "Lucan Parish School 1827". Other public buildings – Health Centre, Lucan Institute of Further Education, Garda Station, Library etc, all look well. The Library differs from the others in being part of a modern shopping centre but without being in any way distinctive. Courtney's Bar with its lovely thatched roof looks very colourful in this key location. A curiosity feature here is a bridge linking Courtneys to the Garda station with a display case at its centre. Well painted.

Kenny's Bar is also eye-catching with lots of colour – hanging baskets, lanterns, flags. In this part of Lucan the adjudicator spotted 4 Eircom phone boxes clustered together. They were spotless, no posters, graffiti and all worked. Well done Eircom. An abandoned house at the Lucan park junction has windows infilled with painted wood. Window boxes. Raised well filled stone bed. Well treated as recommended by the Tidy Towns Handbook. Another derelict building behind the thatched pub. There is a lot of character in the buildings on Main Street. Terraced 2 storey houses/commercial premises. Archways give glimpse of the Liffey and the weir. Some old shop fronts are eye-catching – Griffins Medical Hall being one.

Landscaping:

The landscaping on Esker Hill behind the Topaz Filling Station was admired. Noted that you have delegated its upkeep to local residents and that is as it should be. The flowerbed which starts at the Woddies traffic lights is splendid and enhances the first good impression of Lucan. The landscaped area with the freshly painted bollards opposite Molloy's further enhances the approach to the village. The bollards here and elsewhere in the village are distinctive. Nice landscaping opposite entrance to Ballydowd Grove. The Priest's stone with its little flower bed could also feature in the Built Environmental category. It is unusually well preserved that it can be easily read after so many years. The box hedging spelling out the name Laraghcon was admired although it is marginally outside your tidy towns area. Village Green looks well and Lucan Park is delightful. Seats and handrail on top of railings painted. The flowerbed at the Schoolmasters House and the shrubbery bed at Ardeevin estate were also noted. The village centre has lots of well filled planters, hanging baskets etc. Commercial premises play their part in "flowering up" Lucan. Just what a village needs in this lovely, sunny weather to show itself off. Well done to all involved.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your entry lists just 2 projects in this category, both of which belong in the litter category as they involve removing litter from the Griffeen and Liffey rivers. To progress in this category you need to implement the projects set out in your 3 year plan. The adjudicator was impressed by the wildlife information board on the Liffey promenade, as was last year's adjudicator, but it is not a 2013 project so cannot be taken into account this year. You may want to review the 4 projects that you have listed in your 3 year plan for 2014. The first may be more appropriate for the landscaping category. "Identifying locations" and "examining opportunities" are not outcomes. Erecting bird boxes is.

Litter Control:

Bring Bank in the Superquinn shopping complex had cardboard boxes on the ground beside the containers. Well done on your support for An Taisce's National Spring Clean and for inviting residents associations to participate. However, as you know the battle against litter is continuous. On adjudication day the Liffey bank from the bridge to the steps and lane up to Main Street were very badly littered. This adjudicator took photographs as this was one of the greatest concentrations of litter he has yet seen. By contrast there were workers keeping Lucan Village Park pristine. Their need was on the Liffey bank, not the Village Park. The litter on the Liffey Bank consisted of paper of all kinds – food/sweet wrappers, food containers, clothes, drinks containers of all kinds. Adjudication day was a Monday. Given the sunny weather there may have been unusually large crowds attracted to the Liffey Weir.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Many entrants have difficulty with this category. The Tidy Towns Handbook has advice and tips on what is achievable in this category. A useful place to start is with the waste pyramid as it is illustrated in the entry form. It priorities actions graphically i.e. most important at the top, less important lower down. Tidy Towns committees are expected to promote best practice in reducing waste getting into the village and/or being created in the village.

Conserving consumption is another objective. Schools engaged in the Green Schools Programme have regimes in place to conserve electricity, water, paper, etc. There are useful web sites e.g. stopfoodwaste.ie. This topic is much bigger than recycling, segregating and reusing altogether they have their place on the waste pyramid. Does South Dublin County Council have an Environmental Awareness Officer who may be able to work with you? Some local authorities do.

Tidiness:

Well done on getting unused and rusting poles removed. Cleaning of signs noted. Noted that the agreement with public representatives not to erect posters continues to be observed. Both sides are to be commended. The Welcome to Lucan stone at the cross roads at the bridge had graffiti on adjudication day – "the new home of socialism". No doubt this has since been removed.

Graffiti is very prevalent in Vesey Park. Sign at the entrance on Adamstown Road not legible due to graffiti. Building at entrance similarly covered in graffiti. Park very neglected. Traffic was moving well and parking was easy. Noted that you have removed graffiti from seating at the entrance to Sarsfield Park and from litter bins, bollards and communication boxes.

Residential Areas:

Your reference to waste being illegally dumped belongs in the Tidiness category. This adjudicator concurs with your comment that residential areas in and around Lucan are mature and well maintained. You are very fortunate not to have unfinished estates. While it would be invidious for this adjudicator to compare residential areas some comments may be allowed.

Woodville downs looks well, grassed area, trees well maintained. Added to the good first impression of Lucan on this approach road. So, too, did Esker Lane with its bi-lingual name stone. Mature neighbourhood. Well presented. Vesey Park at the junction of Adamstown Road and Bypass. Cul de sac, looks well. Neatly trimmed grass verges, young trees. Tidy. Flower bed at entrance. Not to be confused with the public park close by. There are impressive residences in the centre of the village which are not part of residential estates. These are included in the Built Environment. Lucan Heights – large residential area with extensive grassed area, bordered by mature trees. Football pitch, brown bollards, well presented. Old Rectory gated housing complex well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are important because they help to create the first impression of a town/village. The 4 Welcome to Lucan stones are large, attractive, clean and bi-lingual. While landscaping adjudicated in that category, it is appropriate to mention it here, too. Landscaping does enhance the village name stones. However, see reference to graffiti on village name stone in the Tidiness category. Damage to stone walls noted. Also noted that you have referred this to South Dublin County Council. The repainted bollards were noted and are dealt with also in the Landscaping category. Control of weeds should be in the Tidiness category.

As mentioned above, approaches to Lucan are good. However, the long tree lined approach on the Lucan Road does set a standard for the other approaches. Your 3 year plan does mention tree planting. Perhaps South Dublin County Council would assist your committee in drafting a comprehensive tree planting programme of native Irish trees. Some local authorities provide free trees to Tidy Towns groups. Road surfaces, generally, are acceptable.

General Impression:

We concur with your view that working closely with the Lucan Village Network and the South Dublin Tidy Towns Together will strengthen your position. Your 3 year plan will help you to focus and priorities your activities.