

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lawrencetown** Ref: **199**
County: **Galway** Mark: **231**
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	50	36	37
Landscaping	50	28	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13	14
Litter Control	50	30	31
Tidiness	30	15	15
Waste Minimisation	20	8	9
Residential Areas	40	25	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	32
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	400	223	231

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Lawrencetown to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Thank you for the completed entry form and village map. Your adjudicator was concerned to read of the lack of enthusiasm for TidyTowns as indicated in your entry form. Lawrencetown is an attractive village that has some very positive characteristics and this adjudicator urges the community to become more deeply committed to the competition. This will benefit Lawrencetown and everyone who lives there. Your committee of ten is large though slightly fewer than that reported last year. It is suggested that you add texting and email to your communications media. For next year it would help if the entry form was more precise in relation to the work carried out in the past year. Each project in the entry form should be numbered and these numbers keyed to the map. Thank you for the TidyTowns Plan. It is suggested that the ten adjudication categories are used as a plan framework. For each project the year of targeted implementation should be given together with possible groups or agencies that might support the project. Have you talked to the LEADER Partnership about possible project support?

The Built Environment:

Derelict buildings are a problem in Lawrencetown. Have you discussed this with the County Council? They have powers under the Derelict Sites Act that can sometimes be of assistance. It was really interesting to read that the village is based on Bath in Somerset; however the scale is so much smaller. A good colour choice has been used at The Beautiful Bird while to the side of Thermasol, bad weed growth needs attention. The National School is crisply presented but would have been enhanced by some window boxes. The fine limestone building of the Community Enterprise Centre was visited but the path and kerbing here is damaged and needs attention. The Catholic Church is attractively presented but the statue across the road needs to be cleaned. The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish language must have the primary role.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is one of the strong aspects about this TidyTown entry. The central green area is impressive but the modern lighting seemed a little out of character in design terms. They would be fine in an urban setting; this is just a personal view. Landscaped areas on all approach roads are also excellently presented and this reflects great credit on the committee and the community. Your adjudicator reminds the TidyTown committee that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating Section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We look forward to further progress on the Nature Walk to the cemetery and do let us have an update for next year. Have you considered a simple wildlife survey of Lawrencetown to find out what wildlife there is in the village and area? Following on from that the development of a Wildlife Trail perhaps combined with a Heritage Trail could be considered.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good with just a little litter noted to the side of Thermasol. The Bring Centre was quite tidy but the three poles supporting the large sign should be painted dark green. How is litter disposed of in Lawrencetown? Do you have regular litter patrols?

Tidiness:

Signage was quite clean and had obviously been washed recently. Past the Monument the closed house development should be screened from public view pending completion. If possible plastic signage would be best removed by the owners and hand painted signage put in place. To the side of the school a very muddy area needs urgent attention. Near the Monument the house development should be screened from public view if works are not ongoing.

Waste Minimisation:

Thank you for the detailed report from the school which indicates that they have eleven projects in place relevant to this adjudication category. This category is about the reduction of the amount of waste generated in Lawrencetown each year. Perhaps the school children could lead a wider community investigation of the waste issue.

Residential Areas:

Housing areas were reasonably well presented. At the housing estate above the Monument a long stained wall needed to be power hosed or otherwise cleaned. The grass areas here were nicely presented. Good landscaping at Castle Lawns caught the eye. Other private houses were well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are a real strength of Lawrencetown and the presentation was excellent. Good grassy verge areas have been developed and these are being very well maintained. The fantastic long tunnel like approach through the trees from the Portumna side is rather unusual in Ireland. The approach road from the Community Enterprise Centre to the village needs a lot of work. Weed growth was evident at the base of the roadside stone wall and banks had not been cut.

General Impression:

You are making TidyTown progress in Lawrencetown and the village has really good potential in the competition. In 2011 your marks increased by 9 marks and you have another good increase this year. You are making progress!