

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLEDALY**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11
Landscaping	40	23
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	163

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Impressive improvements have been made to the appearance of Castledaly in recent years and further progress has been made this year. Great credit is due to such a small community for this achievement and in particular for being able to successfully overcome the problems of having a dispersed village with a small population. To reach this standard you must have widespread support in the community and also be working closely with the relevant State agencies such as FAS and the Local Authority. For the future you should consider the preparation of a development plan which would help focus attention on outstanding problem areas and could ensure ongoing community support. The plan would also be valuable in case making with State agencies.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new section in the competition and is of growing importance and will need to be addressed by Committees. You should seek advice from competent experts on how best you might tackle this section over the next few years. Trees, hedgerows and gardens are all important and there may be other significant habitats to be identified in the environs of the village.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping work that has been carried out is generally in keeping with the scale of the village and is all the more attractive for that. You have resisted the temptation to be over fussy. Simplicity is the key to success and to a great extent you have achieved this. The trees at the stone wall in front of the graveyard, the trees on the Athlone approach to the Moate junction, the well presented public seating, the simple but effective presentation of the entrance to the domain are all good features. The area around the school and church, the shrubbery in front of church and seat at end of car park area opposite church also contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the village. You might consider providing a couple of well planted tubs in the parking area at the school which would add a welcome touch of colour.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Castledaly is a small community with few buildings. Sean Kellys forecourt is neat and tidy. Fitzgeralds is an interesting building which is shown off to maximum effect by the shrubs and creepers at front and side wall. The boundary is also attractively landscaped. The screening shrubs of the boundary wall of the GAA grounds as they grow will become more and more attractive. The church and school are well presented, however the boundary walls between the tennis court and Fitzgeralds require painting. The gate lodge is an attractive building in a central location. It is a pity that it is deteriorating. Could it have been used as a FAS office?

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is excellent. On the day of inspection no litter was visible in the village or approaches, however you should consider the provision of litter bins at the school or church, Fitzgeralds business premises and at seating/picnic areas. As well as helping to control litter, litter bins can be attractive features in their own right.

TIDINESS

The village has a tidy appearance and this is contributed by several factors, the absence of litter, well maintained approach roads, weed free stone walls etc. and business and private houses of a good standard.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are not many private houses in Castledaly, however they all are well presented. Several have attractive gardens and others have fine stone boundary walls. In all cases care must be taken to tend areas between boundary wall and road.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In general the standard of presentation of approach roads is of a high order especially the Athlone road with its wide neatly cut grassed margins, trees, stretches of stone walls. The newly built lengthy stretch of stone wall stretching from the domain gate to the school is also attractive and is all the better for its simple style. The footpath and kerbing are also well maintained, however further improvements can still be made to the wide gravelled margins on the Ferbane road which are weedy. Weeds should be sprayed before they become noticeable. The narrow grass verges from the opposite side of road to graveyard to the name sign on the Ferbane road could be cut more frequently. as there is too much of a difference in standards between margins on both sides of the road. The same also applies to the Ballinahown road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Castledaly continues to improve. You should tackle the problem areas as outlined in the plan on a programmed basis in the years ahead. Keep up the good work.