

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CASTLETOWN GEOGHEGAN**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	20
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>149</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The village has reached a good standard in the competition and this demonstrates continuing community support and assistance from state agencies such as FAS. The well maintained extensive wide grass margins, flower beds etc. on all the approaches to Castletown-Geoghegan are a good example of this commitment. However you should consider the preparation of a Plan which would focus attention on problem areas and which could generate additional support from the community and state and local agencies.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is new section in the competition and up to now most committees have not given any detailed consideration on how best to enhance natural habitats in their centres. Mature trees, hedgerows and gardens are all important habitats and the village has scope to develop this resource further. You should seek advise from suitable qualified persons and incorporate their advise in your overall village development plan.

### LANDSCAPING

A considerable effort is made in maintaining the wide grass margins throughout the village and this certainly adds considerably to the overall appearance of Castletown-Geoghegan. The extensive tree planting that has taken place over the years is also noteworthy. The large number of flower beds particularly on the Kilbeggan road and on the School road are an attractive feature; however the flower bed at the Mullingar junction would look better if it was more fully planted. Dumped road material should be removed from the flowerbeds on the School road. Where recently planted trees have failed replacements should be provided as soon as possible.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church and its grounds are maintained to a high standard. Several of the business premises have been freshly painted; however others would be improved by painting, e.g. AnCO building. The landscaping at the car park at either side of Ennis needs to be completed. This area is in a strategic location and the village will not look its best until this work has been carried out to a satisfactory standard. A welding works by its nature is an untidy business; however improvements could still be made to the forecourt of the works at the Kilbeggan/Tyrrellspass road junction. The rose beds are a nice touch; however this area will not look its best until this work has been completed.

### LITTER CONTROL

Litter control appears good throughout the village as there was little litter evident on the day of inspection and the litter bins appear to be in a good condition.

### TIDINESS

The absence of litter and the well maintained grassed areas help generate a tidy atmosphere in Castletown-Geoghegan; however the incomplete landscaping at Ennis, a number of shops requiring painting together with several weedy gravelled areas and inadequately defined verges reduce the overall effect.

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the private houses are satisfactory. Several have well maintained gardens, however there are a significant number which could maintain gravelled boundary areas to a higher standard. Weeds in

particular were noted in several of these areas. The grass was cut at the Local Authority housing scheme and additional trees might be planted at the chainlink boundary fence.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As has been mentioned a lot of work goes into maintaining the wide grass verges on all the approach roads. Extensive stretches of new, repaired and renovated stone walls are a good feature of Castletown-Geoghegan. Screening trees are another noteworthy feature especially on the Mullingar approach, between church and cemetery and at concrete fencing opposite the school and indeed in other locations. Here and there breaches in fencing need to be repaired, for example at the wooden fencing on the Mullingar road. Long grass should be removed from the stone wall approaching the cemetery. The planting and other work at the junction at the Tyrrellspass/Kilbeggan road were also noticed.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

A considerable effort is made by individuals and communities in Castletown- Geoghegan. However lack of attention to detail often results in the overall effect not being as good as it could be; for example the closely cut grass verges are not always seen to best advantage because of longer grass at margins. Wide gravelled margins are often weedy and a number need surface dressing.