

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLETOWNSEND**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	25
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	204	194

Castletownsend, Co Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is good to read of the contacts maintained with other bodies, and that your young workers are benefiting from the FAS scheme. Your 3-year Development Plan makes very encouraging reading. However, it is more a description of the neighbourhood and you do not list the tasks envisaged on a year-by-year basis; some of the work envisaged has already been undertaken this year, and this is most welcome. Please remember that sensitive local issues may be confidentially mentioned under 6a on your questionnaire: adjudicators need to be informed so as to avoid possible misunderstandings.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Apart from St Barrahanes Church, the quayside Warehouses, the Castle and the Drishane Lodge, all of which are maintained to a very high standard, there is little of individual architectural importance in Castletownsend - yet it is from its unique streetscape that the village gains its immensely satisfying architectural impetus. The entire ensemble is remarkably well looked after, and the many individuals responsible deserve the highest commendation.

LANDSCAPING

New landscaping at the ball court is impressive; by contrast, the playground seemed to require attention - chiefly grass cutting - on adjudication day. Many informal areas of planting, where an apparently random yet obviously well thought-out choice of annuals and perennials were on view, were entirely appropriate to the village environment and enhanced it with considerable charm. More formal planting, such as the hydrangeas on the slope of the Mall, is effective, though there are gaps where a number of these shrubs need to be replaced. The mature deciduous trees form a superb background.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You do not list your achievements of the past year, but it is assumed that there has been continuity. The sheets provided by Conservation Volunteers of Ireland enclosed with the 1997 Tidy Towns booklet may be useful.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some disposable litter in the upper part of the village on adjudication day, but not of much consequence. Clearly you have the matter reasonably well in hand - congratulations.

TIDINESS

There were surprising outcrops of weed here and there - for example, outside the charming terrace below St Barrahanes Church and on the approach to the Church; almost all could have been

removed with very little time and trouble. Poisoning of verges is not always satisfactory as unsightly brown foliage is left.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As mentioned under The Built Environment, Castletownsend's housing stock is one of its chief delights. Recent painting of private homes was favourably noted. Many houses, particularly off St Barrahanes Avenue, were very smart indeed; here, and also in The Mall, and at (for example) Sundial House, there were splendid floral displays. Individual houses on the outskirts are also well kept; one which especially impressed was the Woodlands B&B with its judiciously planted garden nestling into the rocky landscape.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The principal approach is not particularly well presented - this was also referred to by last year's adjudicator. Matters improve the further one enters the village. Almost all signposts needed cleaning. A laneway off The Mall still needs attention, and it is good to see that you will be improving this under your 3-Year Plan. One long-term project not covered in the Plan is the removal of wires and unsightly poles, and the provision of more appropriate lamp standards: this is an extremely expensive operation and can only be done by the official authorities; where it has been achieved in other centres the visual improvement has been immense.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The present adjudicator has been familiar with Castletownsend as a visitor for over 40 years and has witnessed almost cyclical ups and downs: it now appears to be on an up. It is a very singular village, and deserves the care now being masterminded by its energetic Development Association.