

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CASTLECOMER**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	25
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	15
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>185</b>

## **Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

It is again gratifying to read in the questionnaire that you are receiving co-operation and support from many businesses and the general public in Castlecomer boosted by substantial financial assistance from local fundraising. You have also produced an excellent 5-Year Plan which is not over-ambitious. The items referred to for 1997 in the plan have been seen and are part of the adjudication. Last year you received a very in-depth report and the following recommendations should be looked at in the context of this 1996 report.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The premises, both public and private, mentioned in last years adjudication, again looked extremely well this year and, as already stated, it is encouraging to note that the business community in particular are rowing in behind the Committee with better presentation of their premises. You might consider at some stage seeking the guidance of a Colour Consultant in a situation where a number of premises in Castlecomer might be interested in improving their facades and where a collective effort, professional designed, might lead to better effect. In terms of shopfronts replacements, every effort should be made to install, or re-install, the old type shopfront which will blend with and preserve Castlecomers old world rural ambience which is a feature of the town. Castlecomer is also to be congratulated on the services which have been provided for the disabled.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The comments made last year are still appropriate. Some minor works need to be done on the flower beds on either side of The Square. On adjudication day the fence around one of the flower beds was broken. The new flower beds at the entrance to the Protestant Church were also noted. This has created a big improvement in this area. There are many areas in Castlecomer which could be landscaped and it is noted that this is part of your 5-year Plan. Please however avail of the best advice possible particularly in relation to the planting of trees and shrubs. The judicious planting of trees can greatly enhance open spaces, streetscape and built up areas by creating a softening effect which is more acceptable to the eye.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Castlecomer is particularly well endowed with the potential to develop this aspect of the competition. In particular the Demense is a major strength in this respect. On adjudication day it was gratifying to see work in progress to generally improve the appearance of this facility. All concerned are to be congratulated and further encouraged to preserve this wonderful area. In addition however, the Committee should also look at other open spaces which are available where other works could be carried

out in line with the guidelines set out in the Tidy Towns Brochure which offer suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. You might also draw on the knowledge of a local wildlife expert or a member of your Community with experience in this area.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Unfortunately again there was some evidence of litter but not nearly as pronounced as last year. Congratulations to all concerned. Your encouragement of the children in this respect is to be commended. There was again evidence of litter in Bridge Street, near the Protestant Church and indeed on many of the side streets. This aspect of the Competition calls for an all-out campaign. Try to highlight the litter problem through Litter Awareness Projects, school competitions and by referring to the problem on every available occasion. Try creating some Litter-Free Zones, as a further incentive.

## **TIDINESS**

In general the town was reasonably tidy on adjudication day. Unfortunately an area off Chatsworth Street which contains some open sites does not help and the residents there might be encouraged to take some remedial action.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The estates mentioned in last years report were again well presented again this year. However, the residents of Church Avenue should be encouraged to improve the state of their fencing and open spaces. Perhaps your Committee might find it possible, if you have not already done so, to establish Residents Committees in these estates and involve a representative from each in your overall work. Perhaps a small competition amongst Residents Associations might also have the desired effect. Many private gardens are being very well maintained and are a credit to their owners. Overall this aspect of the Competition is progressing well. Further improvements will lead to extra marks.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The comments made in last years report are still applicable. The verges of some back roads could do with cutting but bearing in mind the requirements for preserving wildflowers and providing wildlife habitats. As mentioned last year the carpark at the Castlecomer Woods and Wildlife Sanctuary was again very badly presented this year with a high incidence of litter. Perhaps a litter bin at that point might help solve the problem.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Castlecomer has great potential to progress further in the Competition. With its many open spaces it could be a future candidate for the Entente Florale European Competition in which many centres in the South East region have been very successful in the past. Adherence to your 5-Year Plan and the use of whatever professional help which might be available to you will undoubtedly improve the ambience of the town and ensure future success in the competition.

