

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLECOOTE**
County : **ROSCOMMON**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	20
The Built Environment	40	16	16
Landscaping	40	23	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	9	6
Residential Areas	30	14	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	22
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	153	142

Castlecoote, County Roscommon

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Castlecoote is welcome to the 1997 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the completed questionnaire and sketch map; it is noted that your work plan is not yet completed but it should be submitted for next year's competition. Do not lose heart at the marks that you achieved in 1996; as different criteria were used, your performance should not be interpreted as having lost marks. The work accomplished for this year's adjudication is impressive, the village looked well under every heading. Good luck in your plans for the future, particularly in your wildlife project. We look forward to many repeat visits to Castlecoote.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Buildings are very well presented throughout the village. The school looks particularly well. The carpark located across from the 'Golden's Bar' could be resurfaced. The excellent boundary treatment and the stone surrounds to the tree which forms the centre piece of the carpark have been such admired by the adjudicators. The old sign for Lisheen House B&B located in the carpark across from 'Golden's Bar' should be either upgraded or preferably removed altogether.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaped areas particularly near the bridge are very beautiful, well done. Trees and shrubs are maturing well as is the Laurel hedgerow at the wire and post fencing. The green verge located on the left just beyond the church entering from the Athleague road could now be landscaped (it looks as if work might be in progress on this project). A small space on the green verge on the Donomon road looks as though landscaping work may be in progress.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Congratulations on the establishment of a duck sanctuary on the island in the river Suck. This is a grand achievement. Do keep us informed of your activities in this regard and your success. Some interesting wildflowers have been noted on the banks of the river, perhaps the flora of the river could be surveyed also and featured in greater stands on the river banks. The Suck Valley Walk is a fine amenity feature to have in your village and is well signposted. The committee might consider featuring stands of local wildflowers on grass verges on approach roads to the village.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is excellent. Your litter bins are serving their purpose and you have obviously succeeded in heightening the awareness of school children. Do try to maintain this standard throughout the year.

TIDINESS

Don't forget to remove the remains of building materials when construction work has ceased. These have a habit of sprouting

weeds and grass and becoming a permanent feature of our streetscapes. It was good to note the absence of posters and also the very small amount of weed growth at the base of walls, kerbs etc. Do sweep away grass cuttings as these can look untidy when they become discoloured and are strewn over paths. On the day of adjudication the path along by the notice board for the Suck Valley Walk featured a lot of dried grass cuttings. A second mound of building materials (stone chippings were noted on the green verge just beyond the church).

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties throughout the village are presented to a very high standard, well done. Some roadside landscaping might be appropriate to screen the old residential property which appears to have been a temporary home in recent times. (This is located just across from the large green at the bridge and features the storage of building materials to the roadside of its boundary wall). One property marking the entrance to the Suck Valley Way on the Donomon road needs attention i.e. painting the facade and plastering and painting the boundary wall.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Long stretches of dry stone wall on the roads leading into the village are a handsome feature of Castlecoote. This is a grand achievement and one of which the community should be proud. We look forward to the reconstruction of the fine stone wall on the left hand side of the Roscommon entrance into the village (approximately opposite the school) and on the Athleague road. The church carpark looks exceptionally well with its beautifully constructed loose stone wall; the inside perimeters might now be landscaped.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Castlecoote is one of tidiness and beauty. The village 'invites' the traveller to stay a while and enjoy its ambience.