

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLEREA**
County : **ROSCOMMON**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	26	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	16
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	193	183

Castlerea, County Roscommon

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Castlerea is welcome to the 1997 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed questionnaire and sketch map. Do send in a copy of your work programme spanning the next three to five years. Castlerea has changed a lot in the last few years and all these changes have of course been for the better. Areas have been landscaped, new areas surfaced, amenity areas developed, the town park upgraded, wildlife areas designated, stone walls built and so on. The community ought to be proud of their accomplishments and their good working relationship with the local authority. The town has many fine features with historical buildings, a fine town park and a river. All of these present both the resident and visitor with wonderful recreational opportunities.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The main street is a little disappointing in the presentation of its business premises. This is an area that ought to receive attention over the next year or two. Perhaps if the town was to adopt a co-ordinated colour scheme for businesses along the main street it might encourage people to upgrade their properties. Unfortunately there are still far too many plastic signs in Castlerea for a town of this size. Keep up the efforts to have these replaced with more appropriate signage. The County Council offices and its curtilage area look especially well. The same point can be made for the Garda station. It is good to note work in progress on the river bank near the bridge; this is a very welcome development as this area has been an eyesore for a number of years now. Has the committee considered approaching people about advertisement hoardings on the gable walls of their buildings?

LANDSCAPING

The town square looks particularly well and the entrance to the park looks stately with its newly painted gates and railings. There are so many newly landscaped areas throughout the town and on approach roads that they cannot all possibly be mentioned in this report. All are presented to the highest standards and being maintained meticulously. Perhaps the one most admired by this adjudicator was the one on a corner on the Williamstown road which had a personal touch about it. Your tree planting programme could be extended to incorporate the area at the boundary wall of the Cattle Mart. This is especially important as it is on the route to the town park, GAA grounds and wildlife sanctuary.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to note so many areas designated for wildlife. The next logical step would be to provide information on the type of wildlife featured in each area for those that would like to enjoy it. This can be done in a variety of ways ranging from publishing small brochures and leaflets and making them available to the public to providing interpretive panels at various points throughout the town.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good on adjudication day. Streets and footpaths are obviously swept often and bins emptied regularly, well done! A weak spot was the carpark located behind the SuperValu store.

TIDINESS

A number of underdeveloped areas could be more tidy. No doubt with their development these will cease to be untidy and make their contribution to the aesthetic value of the town. Weed growth along kerbs in the industrial estate was quite prevalent. There are of course a number of buildings at various locations around the town which are either unoccupied or semi-derelict and by their nature give an untidy appearance to their surrounds. However, it is anticipated that this will be rectified when these buildings are occupied once more.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The new residential area on the Williamstown road looks well, perhaps some of the associated green area might feature a wildlife garden. Residential properties in general are presented to a high standard. Some of the new properties have yet to develop their green areas but this is not a problem as of yet. Townhouses look well also, many with fine traditional features.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Many approach roads are lined with old stone walls hidden under growth. Eventually, all of these should be exposed and restored in the traditional way i.e. as loose turf capped stone walls. The wirescape criss-crossing the main street is unsightly in appearance and no doubt it will eventually be ducted, whatever steps the committee can take to hasten this event will be welcome. The junction across from the railway station i.e. the Shell garage and the green area across from it looks particularly good now with its stone wall and landscaping at the garage with stone planter.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Castlerea is favourable. The travelling public cannot help but see the wonderful landscaping that has been undertaken in the village and this will make an even greater impact as it matures over the next few years. The range of amenity facilities are impressive also. Newly constructed stone walls, stone flowerbeds etc. are a nice feature of the built environment.