

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	25	27
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>199</b>

## **Castlecomer, County Kilkenny**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you indeed for the tremendous amount of information sent with your entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. Your five year plan is excellent. It is not over ambitious and it is something which you can achieve within your physical and financial resources. It was gratifying to read again that you have the full physical and financial support of many people in the town including business people, the local community, your local authority and FAS. All the sites marked on your map were visited. Some appeared to be at different stages of development.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

As this is in the nature of a progress report many of the comments made under this heading last year are still applicable particularly with relation to consistency of colour, old shop fronts and the general presentation of premises. Public buildings including the churches and cemeteries, schools, including Castlecomer Community School etc. were again very well presented. Further comment is made later in this report.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The excellent work in terms of landscaping carried out in Castlecomer over many years is now beginning to come to fruition. Flower beds and areas planted with trees and shrubs looked well on adjudication day. The stone name plate and surrounding flower bed on the Carlow Road is a nice feature. Excellent work is obviously being done on the Demesne area which the adjudicator again visited. Further comment later in this report. The purchase of the ride-on mower will be a great help to you. It must be pointed out however that many open spaces particularly attached to housing estates were not well presented on adjudication day and could well do with a visit from the mower. The landscaping at Castlecomer Community school is exceptional. Congratulations to all concerned. Where presented tubs of flowers, hanging baskets and window boxes looked extremely well.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This category was covered in last year's report. The comments made there are still applicable. Castlecomer is particularly suitable for such a project which would get you additional marks in the competition. In this respect the comments made in your entry form regarding the Demesne are noted although there was no evidence of ducks on the river on adjudication day.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Unfortunately this seems to be the area where Castlecomer has fallen down this year with evidence of litter to a greater or lesser extent on approach roads, in housing estates in the centre of town (to a lesser extent) and in the wildlife area. This is an aspect of the competition which calls for continuous monitoring as very often it is a problem outside your control. In this respect the problem seems to be somewhat worse than last year. The provision of litter bins was noted but unfortunately they do not seem to be solving the problem. Much of the litter in evidence would seem to have been provided by the younger generation as it consisted of crisp bags, cans and wrappers. In this respect the comments made in last year's report are still applicable.

## **TIDINESS**

While the town was well presented on adjudication day the feeling was however that it was not as tidy as in previous years. The haphazard parking of cars and vehicles does not help the appearance of the town generally. Perhaps this a matter which could be discussed with your local authority. The town looked very cluttered on adjudication day.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Comments made in last year's report are still applicable and many local residents are to be congratulated on the presentation of their houses and gardens which were, in many cases, a blaze of colour. Many housing estates were visited during the adjudication including Maryville, Church Avenue, Hillside View, etc. Unfortunately, as already mentioned in this report, there was a lot of litter in evidence in many of these estates and open grass areas could have been better presented.

## **ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS**

Roads throughout the town are in good order as indeed are the pavements. Adjudication normally takes place from either the town nameplate signs or the speed limit signs, whichever you opt for. It is necessary therefore to monitor the condition of these approach roads in terms of hedges and grass verges. On adjudication day these were reasonably well presented but in some cases did need cutting. In this respect please bear in mind the requirements for preserving wildflowers and providing wildlife habitats.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

In spite of some of the setbacks mentioned above, please do continue with your efforts based on your five year plan and good results will come eventually. It is essential at this stage to pay attention to detail. Study closely comments made in this report and those of the previous two years. Continue to work closely with your local authority and FAS. Your Regional Tourism Authority (RTA) based in Kilkenny have a video on the Tidy Towns

competition which illustrates how other centres have successfully solved many of the problems which Castlecomer is now experiencing. The RTA also run a seminar for Tidy Towns entrants each year with guest speakers and which is well worth attending.