

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CASTLEDALY**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	24	22
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	20	21
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>170</b>

## **Castledaly, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your development plan and map of the village which was interesting to read and useful to the adjudicators. The work with the school children on essay writing is commendable as it gets them to think about the area and what is required. The plan mentions an interpretative centre - before this is drawn up and developed, research and decide on who this centre will be for. There are too many small centres around the country finding it difficult to survive and keep viable, so careful planning at this stage is essential. Good luck with the implementation of the plan.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The village is divided into two areas joined by the old stone wall, wooded and wildlife areas. Buildings in general were well cared for. Fitzgeralds looked well and had a wonderful surround of roses. The landscape around the carpark here is commendable. Sean Kelly's shop was well painted and had some nice hanging baskets. The GAA grounds looked fine. The graveyard has been well kept - well done. The church and the school were well presented, however due to the high standard of the school, the two rusty gates stood out .

### **LANDSCAPING**

Landscaping was variable in type and presentation. Bedding on the Doon road was not well kept, was weedy and had litter throughout it. It is better to have no bedding than that which is poorly kept. The valerian on the bridge beside the church makes a great impact and can show how naturalised flowers fit much better into a rural setting. The climbers on the wall of the GAA centre now obscure something which was a problem only a few years ago and looked well. Wildflowers should be encouraged through hedging especially along the stretch where the villages is divided.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There was a lovely sign for the wildlife reserve, though there does not seem to be any access along here and barbed wire inside the gate further on. A project should also be taken on whereby all the community can benefit and learn from the management of wildlife habitats. The proposed leaflet on the area which will incorporate information on wildlife could be enclosed with the entry next year if complete. The proposal of a permanent Irish heather plantation is of interest. There are several experts and much information to be obtained on Irish heathers. Initial information can be sought through the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter was evident in the flower beds on the Clonamacnoise road, at the base of the GAA ground wall and in the GAA ground itself. Each time a game/practice takes place a rota of members should be allocated to clean up the area afterwards. This would develop an awareness and establish a routine of being vigilant.

## **TIDINESS**

The appearance of the village was generally tidy. The litter however, did make an impact. Cut grass which had not been removed from further out the village and lay dead and yellowing did not give a very tidy appearance on approach.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The houses and residences were generally well presented too. New housing will be landscaped and contribute significantly to the overall look of a village which is small.

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

The road approaches were satisfactory. The Ballynahown road was very neat and tidy - this must have taken a huge amount of work. The Athlone road was also nice and neat, though trees did require the removal of weeds from their bases. The Clonmacnoise road was well cut back. Wildflowers and ferns should however, be encouraged to grow at intervals through out the hedge if at all possible, especially in this rural environment.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Castledaly has come on well in the last few years - well done. The projects that are in mind are ambitious and planning is essential. It is good to be able to link up with the local hotel and this should provide a nice amenity for the community. Your work with the school is commendable as it is through education and learned appreciation that progress is made. - good luck with future work.