

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CASTLEGREGORY**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	22
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>193</b>

## **Castlegregory, County Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The adjudicator is pleased to note that you have good community support for your Tidy Towns work and that you are using the FAS Scheme. Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you should prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups, the County Council and other agencies. It would therefore guide your Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme should detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan which is updated annually is now an important aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition. The new Tidy Towns Handbook, which has been issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy Towns Committees, is a highly useful document which will be a great help both to established Tidy Towns Committees and to all new entrants. It is divided into a series of seven Action Sheets which together cover all aspects of the Competition. especially for new entrants it might be most useful for a committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The work on the new building at the Church was noted but the railings around the nearby Monument are in need of painting. The Church itself looked well. There are a number of good shopfronts in Castlegregory which include Lynch's Funeral Home and Boland's Bar. The murals noted on various buildings in the village add a lot of character. Good use is made of colour in Castlegregory especially on business premises. At Forge Road the high concrete wall is in need of painting and the long wall opposite is in need of white-washing. Overall the built environment in Castlegregory is developing well.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Your plans to stone face the wall opposite the Garage are noted, but do make sure you use a local stone for this work. The landscaping on the road in from the Killiney side looked well on adjudication day. Near the Post Office a beautiful splash of colour was noted along one wall. The window boxes and hanging baskets all looked well. Do try to develop more incidental small landscaped areas in Castlegregory - the opportunities are there. This will prevent such areas from becoming untidy.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Lough Gill is a major amenity for wildlife. As suggested in last year's Tidy Town Report try to develop a structured, planned approach to wildlife in your village. Do try to develop further amenities which will encourage wildlife to your area. Your first step however is to identify the species which inhabit any such areas. Wildlife can be encouraged by

the planting of native berry producing trees and shrubs. The provision of bird and bat roosts and nesting sites in any old buildings might also be considered by your Committee. Make sure that any wildlife areas to which the public have access are properly signposted. Remember the needs of people with disabilities. The development of these amenity walks and nature trails will add greatly to your area in the years ahead. Has your Committee considered the erection of some information plaques about the wildlife to be seen in the area?

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter was noted in the Main Street beyond SPAR and in the small lane off Forge Street. Your request for additional litter bins has been noted. Do make sure however that there is a collection programme in place to support the extra litter bin.

## **TIDINESS**

Derelict buildings continue to be a major problem, and it is noted that you are working on this. There are a number of small vacant sites which are becoming overgrown and these need urgent attention. A number of inappropriate projecting signs were noted; try to see if these can be replaced by traditional flat mounted signs. Watch out also for long grass coming through field gates. At the Car Park near SPAR the mounds of sand / gravel and stone should be removed. At the village green it is a pity to see the total space occupied by amusements. This could be a lovely landscaped area year round.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Private houses were generally well presented. Some boundary walls are in need of repair and painting. Watch for weed and grass growth at the base of these walls which detracts from the overall appearance of otherwise well presented houses and gardens.

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

The Stradbally approach looked very well. However speed limit poles need to be replaced or painted. Other approach roads were generally rather overgrown. When you are cutting your approach roads do not cut them too tightly with the needs of wildlife in mind. Likewise please do not cut during the nesting season.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Castlegregory is an attractive compact village of character where you are making progress. Well done to all involved.