

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CASTLEISLAND**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>213</b>

## **Castleisland, County Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The five year plan that accompanied the completed entry form shows continuous commitment for the development and enhancement of the town. You have many projects on hand and the town is developing at a fast rate. As mentioned in earlier reports your ability to involve so many agencies is praiseworthy. You have had much success in recent years and your challenge now is to maintain the standards created with new developments and at the same time concentrate on the black spots that are causing you problems. The results of the Fás Scheme are very much in evidence. However, you do need to keep the community involved and enthused and bring them with you in your endeavours

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

You have done well in this section and increased your marks. The many fine shops and other buildings in Castleisland bring great character to the town, especially in the main and upper street. The Allied Irish Bank and the Bank of Ireland looked extremely well again this year and the addition of Den Jones on Church Street is welcome. Ahern's Garage, a focal building on your most important approach, would benefit from painting, perhaps they could also be encouraged to tone down the signage. The Gaelscoil is an attractive building and was well presented. In the event of replacing the windows of the school, it is hoped they will stay with the original timber sash type. The Courthouse/Library is really well presented on this strategic corner.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There is a great display of colour throughout the town. The provision and maintenance of so many flower tubs and hanging baskets is praiseworthy. The new development at the Running Track is taking shape. When completing ensure that the site is well landscaped. At this site there is a colourful display of roses. The mural at the Presentation Convent School is interesting and illustrative also the welcome mural opposite the Post Office. The mart environs are badly presented and could with little effort be improved. In general, marts are badly presented throughout the region and project a poor image for this section of the agricultural industry. The sign for the Rugby Club needs painting. The major effort and expense in replacing the overhead cables underground at Upper Main Street is to everybody's credit. This now completes the under grounding of the public lighting cables and will enhance the whole main street.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The River Walk which was travelled almost in total by the adjudicator is really excellent. There was a plethora of birdlife on and off the river during adjudication day. This is one of the finest river walks in the region and offers a great facility to local and visitors alike. If energy persists you should consider embellishing the various river bridges with flower displays - similar to Ennis Town. The wildlife sign near Church Road Bridge has been vandalised - but don't let the vandal deter you in your efforts.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter was evident at the entrance to St. John's Park and there is a lot of overgrown grass at O' Connell Avenue. The town centre was free from litter and there were no apparent problems in the many approach roads - your efforts here are commendable.

## **TIDINESS**

Your problems here relate to untidy open spaces, large yards badly presented, garage forecourts not up to standard, closed commercial premises i.e. Telecom Station on Abbeyfeale road (referred to last year) and unfinished buildings. The development of the new road has now unfolded new views. Also at the top of this road there is a most untidy open space and commercial activity. Much of this requirement is beyond the scope of a voluntary tidy town's committee and this is acknowledged.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Houses and housing estates are well presented. It is good to witness such a high occupancy in the town centre, as in many towns in the region the upper stories are no longer in use to the same degree as heretofore. Some estates have great examples of individual effort, many with colourful gardens and well kept lawns.

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

Because of the many developments currently on hand, a lot of side and rear entrances are being opened up to views not evident before. Actually, many of the traditional features of the town are now more evident, and you need to take cognisance of how best to present them. A walk up to the Castle remains - if you can find it, illustrates the previous point. Have you any long term plan for improving the surrounds of the Castle remains. As it is the name of the town, it behoves the community to try and present this landmark to a higher standard. As mentioned last year,

signage is good and well maintained. The bollards along the footpath on Church Road look well and give a bit of pedestrian atmosphere to this street.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

You have raised your marks again and the work of previous year's continues to enhance the town. Main Street is still your strong point, but you have many new developments now coming on stream that will present opportunities for further enhancement. Stick with your five year plan and in the core area of the town, pay more attention to detail. You still have a few plastic signs that need replacement. The work of the local authority is very much in evidence also and the shabby in the car park and other areas throughout the town reflect great credit on all concerned. Well done on a fine performance.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (14/08/99)**

The Main Street, the splendidly restored stonework in the vicinity of the Ivy Leaf Theatre and elsewhere, and certain other improvements throughout the town, are impressive. Overall, more attention to little 'corners' will have to be paid if increases in marks are to continue at this very high and therefore critical level of the competition. There is much construction and development at present, and these extensive sites cannot be fairly judged until they have had a chance to blend with the existing townscape. There are, however, some areas which have been neglected for some time, mainly 'backs' seen from Pound Lane and Barrack Street. The one which gives the initially poor impression of Castleisland when arriving from Farranfore is the back of the library and adjacent buildings with two unattractive corrugated-iron structures and a poorly presented shop all around the intersection of the Farranfore/Traleer/Pound roads. Castleisland has improved so rapidly due to the hard work and determination of this Committee, it is fully expected that these areas will be attended to very quickly.