

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	32
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>199</b>

## **Castlecomer, County Kilkenny**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The development plan submitted and the general information about Castlecomer were both interesting and helpful. The plan sets out good aims and with the co-operation of public bodies and residents, the achievement of these aims will greatly help Castlecomer.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

A large number of shops have been improved with attractive shopfronts and have been decorated well by painting. There still remains a considerable number which can benefit from improvement. The old creamery house and its frontage treatment leaves a lot to be desired for such a prominent place in the town. The Garda barracks building possibly could be occupied by other occupants and the entire premises given a face lift. Some of the premises on the Clough direction require a little attention. The community school and surrounds are exceptionally well presented. The ivy and virginian creeper clad premises are especially attractive. The brick houses beyond the Fas building are attractive.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The predominant landscape feature of the town is of course the magnificent tree lined square. This is a magnificent feature and the well kept grass sets it off to perfection. The cluttered appearance at the top of the green with cars parked and double parked does not do justice to the scene. The demesne is another wonderful landscape feature which requires careful maintenance. The many planters around the town are also making a good contribution. The community school landscaping is a wonderful sight and great credit is due for this. The rose and flower beds on the green between the trees must be in perfect condition if they deserve to be in such a formal and grand setting. Rose beds need to be densely planted preferably with one variety in each border for uniformity. If bedding plants are used excellence is demanded both with the plants and in the care of edging and weeding. The concrete posts and chains do not seem to be serving any function only to draw attention to themselves. Individual gardens of homes make a major contribution to the town and every effort is important in this respect,

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Demesne offers great opportunities in this regard. Riverside walks and wild vegetation always give scope for wildlife habitats and a number of projects could emanate from this.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The litter control is disappointing again. The whole policy may have to be examined. Litter control is to do with a state of mind of people as no amount of litter bins can resolve the problem. Awareness programmes must continue . The programmes that you have undertaken will in time show results. A number of the litter bins in themselves are untidy. Around the benches in front of the Creamery building there was profuse litter, some along the streets and on the greens.

## **TIDINESS**

There is scope for a much more tidy appearance in Castlecomer. The parking as described seems to be cluttered. Many premises could be cleaned up and the resolution of the litter problem would help in this regard.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The residences are making a very positive contribution to the town. Individual residences and estates contribute significantly. The entrances to estates are particularly pleasant and this gives a very good tone to an estate and help residents to keep their own places well. The housing estate above the community school is particularly notable. Maryville and the other housing estates visited had a good standard. Trees often play an important part in the presentation of the entrance to an estate – just as above the community school two large trees are so important there. What will happen when these mature trees come to the end of their lives ? Are replacements of these types of trees being planted. Similarly the mature limes in the town will not live for ever and we owe it to the next two generations to plant now.

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

The roads are generally good. The street above the creamery building – Ballyragget direction up to the fire station is in bad repair with hollows and melting tar. Many road kerbs need attention to weed control and again the parking arrangements do not facilitate the best use of the roads.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The lime trees on the square are such a magnificent feature- all other aspects of Castlecomer could be brought up to a standard befitting this fine feature and this would represent a great improvement.