

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLEREA**
County : **ROSCOMMON**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	29	27
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	207	202

Castlerea, Co Roscommon

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for the completed entry form and map. It is good to know that you are working in co-operation with the Local Co Cl, Town's Trust and local schools. You should however, draw up a development plan covering the next 3/5 years and submit this with next year's entry.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The lighting in the town is good but there are still some Telecom wires visible and these look unsightly. A number of the buildings are very attractive and well maintained such as Roscommon Co Cl, the Garda Barracks, the School (but the portcabin-type buildings at the side take from it), Tully's Hotel, Western Health Board and the Cosy Bar. The market area is much improved and the new footpaths, shelter and shrubs on The Square look very good. It is good to know that the old mill buildings on both sides of the river are for sale and, hopefully, these will be improved by the new owners and perhaps even refurbished and made into a tourist attraction. The new stone plaque at the Fairways looks well but some weeding is needed here and the area around the golf club entrance also needs attention. The surface of the slip road nearby is bad and there are some derelict houses there but it was nice to see that some new houses are under construction. There is work taking place at the graveyard but weeding is needed by the entry gates and rubbish dumped inside the gate should be removed. The old C of I Church has become very dilapidated and it is good to know that it has been donated to the Drama Group and it is hoped they will improve its appearance. A number of plastic signs are still in evidence and you should continue trying to have these removed.

LANDSCAPING

There are a lot of nice hanging baskets on business premises and houses, and a number of factories such as Teagasc and Harmac, are making an effort but the Farm Supplies building and surrounds could be improved. A lot of new shrub and flower planting was noted around the town but in a lot of cases these containers required weeding and maintenance was generally not good. The railway station was not looking as well as before - keep after CIE management to persuade them to improve it. The vacant site next door with the rusted skip filled with plastic bags of rubbish doesn't help! The new housing estate off the Knock Road is obviously making an effort but again maintenance is lacking. The houses on the

main Knock Road have some nice hanging baskets and these look well. The landscape feature on the Williamstown Road and the Demesne are nice features. During the visit the river in the Demesne was being cleared out and this should look well when completed.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The grounds of Clonalis House are very attractive and the meadows and trees there are a joy to behold. The exterior of the house though looks a little shabby. Despite the ongoing work in the Demesne it was still a lovely area to visit and the wood on the approach road to the Prison looked well but there didn't seem to be any access route to it. The new green area at Church Road looks well as do the flower containers at Ballinlough Road. The grotto also looks good and is well maintained. The swimming pool and the children's play area are a good feature.

LITTER CONTROL

A lot of bins were in evidence. Some inevitably worn, and could be replaced. Generally there was little litter and you are to be congratulated on this.

TIDINESS

This is an area which needs a lot of attention. Most of the flower containers needed weeding as did the pavement edges and the base of walls throughout the town. Verges on a number of the approach roads need cutting back and the concrete containers around the trees, especially those on the Knock Road, need attention. The boundary wall at the corner of the Knock Road/Williamstown Road needs painting and there are a number of vacant/overgrown sites on the Williamstown Road. It was good to see there is planning permission on one and there is some building ongoing on another. The derelict sites especially the burned B/B building in the main street need to be tackled and plastic signs removed. There is an abandoned trailer opposite the graveyard and an abandoned car in the car park in the town. Hell's Kitchen was under reconstruction at the time of the visit so it was difficult to assess, though the train built into the wall did look interesting. The car park and the area near the old ballroom and Gilmartin's Cash and Carry could still be improved.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

These are generally well maintained and it is obvious that a number of areas are making a big effort to improve but attention should be given to boundary walls and weeds adjacent to these and at the edges of footpaths.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some improvement here but a lot still needs to be done especially with the vacant sites and derelict buildings.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A lot of work has been done but maintenance does not seem to be keeping pace with development. You might be better advised to concentrate on what has been done and make sure it is not deteriorating rather than go ahead with any other developments for the moment. Again the provision of a 3/5 year plan would give some guidance in this regard. Castlerea is a lovely town and has a lot of potential but this needs to be focused in the right direction.