

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLETOWNBERE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	19
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	190	188

Castletownbere, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the copy of your 3-5 Year Plan. It would be useful for you in that document to establish Tidy Towns priorities for each year. This will also help in your discussion with the Local Authority and other Agencies. For the Competition in 2001 it would be useful if on your Map you could indicate the location of works carried out during the year. The involvement of FAS and ICA in your work programme is very important, and it is hoped that this will continue.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Castletownbere is a very long linear town developed around the importance of the fishing industry. The new School building and grounds looked very well on adjudication day, but some planting of trees in this area would soften the landscape. The Hospital grounds also looked well. Some tiled building fronts remain in the town and these should be replaced if possible with a medium more in keeping with the overall appearance of the town. There is a good use of colour in Castletownbere and this adds much to the overall visual impression. Good examples include The Mariner. The old Hotel site is a very strategic one and it is hoped that this may be developed in due course. Some building facades to the main street are in need of painting, and strong weed growth was noted in the gutters of at least one premises at roof level. It is noted that the Pier area is under new Management. This is an area that needs further environmental improvement. The adjudicator noted that the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources started a Pier area clean up on 1st May this year. The management of car parking on the Pier needs urgent attention. The BIM Regional Fisheries Centre was well presented.

LANDSCAPING

The Church of Ireland grounds wall project has been a major success and congratulations to all involved. The lowering of the boundary wall makes a greater difference and it helps to integrate the Church and grounds into the streetscape. The hanging baskets project for some of the road signs is noted, however do make sure that the provision of hanging baskets generally in the town is not over done. The Locmiquelic Gardens is another excellent project well implemented, and the old 1796 anchor makes an excellent centre piece.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The plans to refurbish the playground are noted and it is

hoped that this project will be completed in time for the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Have you considered providing some plaques which will detail the seabirds and other birds to be seen in the town area. However some local research will be necessary first. The new Tidy towns Handbook has been issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy towns Committees. This 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 that together cover all aspects of the Competition. There is a good section in this Handbook on wildlife.

LITTER CONTROL

The Schools litter competition plans were noted and this is an important development. The encouraging of young people to get involved in their environment is an important aspect of the Competition. It is good to learn that the closure of the local landfill site did not create the problems that were at first feared. Some litter was noted on the Castletownbere approach road, and on the Tallon Road. At the playground at the western end of the town litter was again noted, and also at the old hotel site nearby.

TIDINESS

Untidy open spaces were noted on the Eyeries approach road. Watch out for weed growth at the base of walls that was noted in a number of areas. The foreshore area opposite the Millbrook Bar is in need of a clean up as this area is visible from the road close by. The Dinish Island area is extremely poorly presented, with abandoned trucks and other rubbish. It is appreciated that this is a working area but the presentation can be improved. There is also some amenity potential on the road on the southern side that runs parallel to the sea. The approach road to the Ford Ri Hotel is in need of attention and over growth needs to be cut back. At the GAA car park a very large pile of stone was noted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Boundary walls in several instances need attention either by washing or painting or both. Many private houses were well presented. The new housing development under way on the Eyeries approach road was noted, and it is hoped that an imaginative colour scheme will be used for external wall surfaces. The old cottages on the right hand side on the Glengarriff approach were nicely presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the Eyeries approach road verges and banks need to be trimmed and extensive weed growth at the base of road boundary walls was noted. Much work is required on the

Glengarriff approach road and the long grass beside the concrete post and rail fencing should be removed to expose the fencing. Some modern stone walls were noted by the Old Presbytery on this approach, and this work has been well done. On the approach road to the side of the Old Bakery, banks needed to be trimmed and similar work was necessary on the Tallon Road approach to Castletownbere. Some interesting old stone walls were noted on the Allihies approach but these walls are covered in long grass and weeds.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Castletownbere is a busy fishing port and as such has a lot of heavy traffic coming into and leaving the town. The road improvements now underway will help to ease traffic flows at the Glengarriff end of Castletownbere. The Committee is making progress. Well done!