

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLETOWNSEND**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	210	210

Castletownshend, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It appears to the adjudicator that the hard working Tidy Towns Committee need much more help from the local community. The Competition benefits everyone in the community and with more local support much more can be achieved. 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. It might be most useful for a committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook. 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, other agencies and the County Council. It would therefore guide you Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme will detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan that is updated annually is now an important aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Castletownshend is a small village full of character – perhaps fine cut stone, trees, wildflowers, a strong sense of history and water are the main constituents of what makes this village so special. The Playground project is noted. A derelict house in the Main Street opposite McCarthy's was noted. Try and see if you can get permission from the property owner to white-wash external walls. Windows could be boarded up and painted matt black. In this way the original derelict property can become a feature of your village. Some properties are in need of re-painting or touching up, while others have yet to be painted. The Church of Ireland Church and grounds as usual are really well kept. The plans now under way, to restore the old Granary by the Pier to create three new apartments is an excellent use for an old building.

LANDSCAPING

The planting at the village sign on the Skibbereen approach road is simple and effective. Montbretia and Ivy are among the wildflowers and plants which tend to dominate in Castletownshend. Good incidental landscaped areas were also noted, some of which make good use of natural rock. The Hydrangeas at the end of The Mall create an attractive splash of colour here.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your plans to erect wildlife signs are noted. You may have to do a simple local survey on wildlife first, if you have not already done this.

LITTER CONTROL

On adjudication day litter was noted in several parts of the Main Street and the deep water channel on the left appears to attract litter. Litter was also found further out at the beginning of the village.

TIDINESS

A number of areas in the village were untidy on adjudication day and these need your early attention. These areas included the pile of building materials on The Mall, and the fishing and building material outside a house on the way down to the Pier. The area behind the Granary also was not well presented. An apparently abandoned car was noted on the main street. Rubbish was piled up in the Main Street apparently awaiting collection. Perhaps in discussion with your Local Authority it may be possible to work out a better system.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The excellent presentation of many private houses and gardens is one of the key features of the village. High levels of mature landscaping were noted at several properties. A very attractive stone property was noted at the end of The Mall.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Rusty wire fencing was noted near the village sign on the Skibbereen approach, and this needs to be replaced. On this approach road the narrow grass verge needs to be cut and the long grass removed from the top of the stone wall. On the road to Tragumna some differentiation between the nicely cut grass margin and the road surface is required. Have you discussed kerbing with your local Engineer.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Castletownshend is a most attractive village. The Committee have achieved a lot but with more support the village can be made even more attractive for everyone.