

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2000

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2000 | Mark Awarded 1999 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 39                | 38                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 32                | 32                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 28                | 28                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 20                | 19                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 28                | 30                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 14                | 14                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 23                | 23                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 26                | 26                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 7                 | 7                 |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>217</b>        | <b>217</b>        |

## **Castleisland, County Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The five-year plan presented is very comprehensive and contains many fine projects. The fulfilment of these projects will considerably advance the progress of this town in both structural and environmental terms. Your obtaining professional help over the past years shows a great commitment and there are great signs of improvement in the town. There are some places where attention will need to be seriously focused such as at the area coming around from the car park to the main street at the start of Pound Road and some other pockets. No doubt these are well known and earmarked for improvements. The area of the castle would make a fascinating study and could open up that area with consequent upgrading of the associated back area. The Town Park and riverside walk are excellent developments and add a great dimension to the town. Your links with community groups are admirable and this is the way to progress projects within a town.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

So many buildings are well painted and well presented that they can no longer be listed. The stage now has come that it would be far shorter to make a list of those needing attention. These are obvious and the committee is well aware of these and some derelict buildings. Now that some derelict sites have been designated under the Town renewal scheme perhaps the owners may carry out improvement works. The Courthouse/library is attractively presented and has a commanding position in the main street. The bank buildings are also attractively presented. The large carpark is a great facility in that it keeps so many cars off the streets. The surface is very good but the state of the areas to the back of the carpet store and surrounds detract from the appearance. The style of lamps and undergrounding of cables in the main street is a great advantage and a fine job. The monument at the start of the main street is curious and some information regarding this would be interesting – perhaps on a plaque.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The hanging baskets on the lamp standards throughout the main street are very impressive. The Town Park and entrance to the sports complex is a great facility and with maturity and extra planting will develop well. The Leyland cypress hedge on the entrance to the Sports complex is not a good choice it will need constant cutting back and may as a result become unattractive. A replacement with a Hawthorn hedge would be a lovely project not only visually but also in terms of maintenance and the range of wildlife that it would encourage. The garden on the approach to St. Stephens' graveyard

seems to have suffered a little neglect. This could be renovated easily and would be well worthwhile. At St Stephens Park the conifers around the statue have been cruelly chopped back to a state where they cannot survive. Replacement planting is advisable here. Adjacent to this there is a fine line of young trees. Planting of the really large trees such as Ash and Sycamore and Chestnut should be considered where space is available. These are the trees that form the fabric of the landscape of Ireland and if continual planting of these where space permits is not done the next few generations will not thank us. Individual gardens around the town have a great bearing on the overall appearance of the entrance roads and home owners who work away silently on their own gardens and hedges play a significant role in the overall appearance of the town and surrounds.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The river walk is an excellent project and gives a lovely aspect to the town. Perhaps more riverside planting at intervals would be helpful to provide cover for wild life and to encourage a range of wild plants. It is lovely to be able to walk from one end of the town to the other without going through the streets. The riverside walk is very well maintained. The information board is helpful and nesting boxes were noticed along the wall. The introduction of fowl is a good idea and this maybe could be extended.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter continues to present problems in Castleisland. Litter was observed in so many places and it is difficult to know why this is occurring as you have many schemes in operation to promote litter control. Litter was noticeable on the main street as well as out the Cordial Road. It would be worthwhile to make a study of the sources of the litter.

### **TIDINESS**

Great efforts are being made. Looking at the areas in Main Street and the river walk one would say there was a very tidy aspect but other areas contradict this. The Killarney exit from the town and the road swinging around into the main street from the carpark by Pound Road is a case in point. As stated last year new roads frequently open up areas that were concealed and appropriate action has to be taken to ameliorate the position. The area to the castle is untidy and maybe if this area were to be developed it would give an opportunity to improve this. Construction and development by its nature is disturbing to a town and when these all settle and reinstatement occurs the situation will improve.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The housing estates at St. Stephens and St. Johns are well cared for apart from comments above re landscaping and tree planting opportunities. The grass is well cared for and it is nice to have the path through to the main street. Many new houses out the Pound Road are being built. It is important that all new developments are well finished and the surrounds reinstated – this is an aspect needing vigilance that a tidy towns committee can take on board.

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

The roadways are reasonably well cared for and the footpaths have been renewed in places. Some attention to cracked pavements is needed as time proceeds. Please see comments above re effects of road developments. Also, some of the comments made in the report last year still apply.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

There is a great commitment to improvements in Castleisland and good progress is being made. Focus on the areas needing most attention and take a long-term view of projects. Your enthusiasm for development is commendable and the great achievements of the Town Park, riverside walk, Main Street and so many well-presented buildings is a great credit.