

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLEBLAYNEY**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	23	21
Landscaping	40	18	15
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	7	5
Litter Control	40	19	20
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	5	4
TOTAL MARK	300	147	138

Castleblayney, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to Castleblayney for the second year to the Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the very helpful map and for your Plan for the next three years. It is a most useful yardstick in an adjudication to have such information supplied. As you will observe by the allocation of marks in this year's adjudication you have done very well in one or two sections. However, to achieve the success capable to you in this competition it is essential that you concentrate on all the areas and so more attention needs to be given to the Approach Roads, Tidiness and to the Wildlife sections and concentrate on these and you will do better in the years to come.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Castleblayney is a very nicely laid out town with some excellent buildings especially in the main street. Obviously the Market House renovation is critical to a sense of pride that you have in your town and it is to be hoped that this will commence shortly. Concurrent with this the many fine buildings in the Main Street area which require restoration need to be attended to. Such renovation needs to be sensitive to the historical content of the town's architecture but nonetheless it is essential. Among the other buildings noted were the Presbyterian Church, the Church of Ireland and the Credit Union building all presented very well. The Gardai are to be congratulated on their wonderful window boxes and improvements at the Station generally, as are the Health Board for the painting of the Health Centre which had been remarked upon in last year's report. Much of what was noted in last year's adjudication remains. A special mention should be made of Centra, Tavey's and Conlon's Café for their very fine presentation of their buildings.

LANDSCAPING

This really is your strength as a Committee. You have obviously put great effort into it and you are to be congratulated on same. Noted were the Kool factory, the Laurel Hill, Fire Station, Irwin Tiles and the trees on the main street. At a private level Glencarn Hotel and its excellent screening of the car parks from the street, was a lesson for others within the town area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Hope Castle grounds continue to be maintained very well and obviously are the flora and fauna outlet for the

town. However, more needs to be made of this if you are to do well in the competition. The comments made last year pertain also here.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter to be noted throughout the town. Not a major problem but nonetheless this attention to detail is required to do better in the competition. Noted especially were the overflowing bins at Hanratty's car park, some residual litter at the bins at very heart of the Crescent Terrace area and litter yet again presenting itself in the Hope Castle grounds. Please deal with these matters for next year.

TIDINESS

The overall impression of Castleblayney is of a tidy place but on the large urban area and the extended approach roads there are some areas for concern. For instance weeds were very obvious at the entrance to the Teagasc centre, paths at the Top Garage on the Monaghan Road were overgrown with weeds and the infill sites on the Monaghan Road also require positive action. In addition flyposting was a problem in a number of areas. All of these detracted when combined with the number of old buildings on the main street from the complete experience of tidiness that we would have liked to have seen.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Crescent Terrace again was particularly attractive as were houses on the Shercock Road. Within the town many homes were presenting very well, most notably a house beside the Saab Garage. Overall the community have a high pride in their place and this is reflected in the estates and houses being so well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Dublin approach road presented very well and the landscaping and neatness created a good sense of anticipation for the adjudicator. Unfortunately this was not matched by the experience on the Monaghan road where indiscriminate signing, weed control, infill sites all contribute to an untidy approach. In addition there was a derelict car in the car park at Hanratty's and the Welcome signs on the Keady Road were obliterated by tall grass. A number of back entrances and side streets especially through archways off the Main Street require attention also.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Castleblayney has laid down the foundations to do well

within the Tidy Towns Competition. However, it is essential that it deals with its renovation programme, that it completes a development plan as proposed with the Planning Officer from Monaghan County Council, that sensitive restoration is made of the older buildings and semi derelict buildings especially along the Main Street. All of this in these buoyant times is very achievable and I have no doubt if you bring the energy of your landscaping programme into other aspects of the Tidy Towns Competition that you will do much better. Congratulations to all.