

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	32	29
Landscaping	40	31	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	18	22
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	19
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	195	190

Castletownbere, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The work you have achieved so far in Castletownbere is to your credit. Of particular note were the removal of the boundary wall to St. Peter's Church of Ireland to reveal all its marvelous grounds in its central location. Your landscaping to Lomiquelic Gardens is indeed marvelous. Castletownbere Business Development Association should now set a timescale against your projects for the next three to five years in order that you may see yourselves (and indeed the adjudicator can appreciate) how your work has progressed.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Castletownbere has many attractive and unusual traditional frontages such as those to Beara Crafts and the adjacent buildings with their unusual dormer windows. Most of the buildings along the long main street were reasonably well maintained on the day. Of note were McCarthy's Bar, O'Shea's, the AIB, the Old Bank Seafood Restaurant and B&B with its attractive grounds, the charming Ivy Bar, the Post Office (although their signage was quite flaky), the Beara Bar, the Hole in the Wall, the red Garda Station. Some neglected buildings at the far end of Main Street near the junction of the Ford Ri Hotel and the sports complex looked unfortunate. This latter building and grounds were well maintained. The Silver Dollar Bar should be repainted before next year's competition. Sparrow's Garden Shop looked quite charming with its colourful displays outside. The marvellous St. Peter's Church of Ireland and Sacred Heart Catholic Church raised above the Main Street both looked well in their very central locations. An unusual mural showing the Beara streetscape with the waterside to the front and the hills to the back was greatly admired. Another shabby building was noted by Lynch's and the adjudicator was disappointed to note that the Beara Bay Hotel is still for sale. This would benefit from restoration in its prominent location on the Main Street.

LANDSCAPING

The golf course area is well maintained and adds to the visual impact of the Glengarriff Road. Lomiquelic Gardens are now complete and looks magnificent this is a marvellous amenity to the town. The opening up of the grounds to St. Peter's Church of Ireland is to be commended. The playground with its stone boundary wall and flower tubs filled with petunias looked extremely well. Perhaps some more landscaping could be considered in this location to soften the effect of the hard landscaping there. The GAA grounds with their stone boundary wall and trees behind looked extremely well, however, the forecourt area was quite weedy. The colourful display of flowers to the steps behind O'Donoghue's Bar was greatly admired.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Castletownbere is in a marvelous location with its close proximity to marine life, and the mountains with their large variety of wildlife habitats. Perhaps you could consider developing some local walks to be incorporated with maps indicating the wildlife to be seen in the locality.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely poor. Quite a lot of litter was evident on the Glengarriff Road, in particular at the bend in the road by the water's edge at the Mill Brook Bar. Still more was apparent on the approach road from Allehies and to the seating area behind the car park by the ferry. Litter bins were looking quite shabby throughout the town and should be replaced.

TIDINESS

The standard in this category could also have been higher. Some sheds on the Allehies Road should be re-whitewashed. Kerbsides displayed evidence of weeds in a number of locations. Concrete post and wire fencing and concrete post and rail fencing on the Glengarriff Road should be replaced with indigenous hedging of beech or hawthorn or, indeed, a stone wall, to give a more natural appearance. There are far too many advertising hoardings on approach roads, and indeed in the town centre, giving quite a cluttered appearance. The entrance to the harbour area has improved greatly since the adjudicator's last visit. This is a marvelous working amenity to have so close to the town centre.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of houses along approach roads and in the town centre was very good on adjudication day. Realt na Mara B&B sported some magnificent landscaping to the Glengarriff Road. The pretty stone cottages with simple well maintained grass open space to the front, on this road were also admired as was a pink cottage with a magnificent garden. There are many attractive houses on the Allehies Road, most of the boundaries of which were quite fresh. A particularly attractive garden to a bungalow was noted on this road as was a charming ivy clad house.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better. Road works were apparent on the Glengarriff Road but this road was quite overgrown closer to the town where this activity was not taking place. This is a long approach with a lot of roadside to maintain. The town nameplate sign on this side was very grubby. However this approach affords the visitor magnificent views to the harbour, and the new stone walling in this location was admired in particular that of the dry stone variety. The Kenmare Road appeared quite rough and the grotto in this location needs painting. A tin shed would also benefit from repainting before

next year's competition and concrete block boundaries on this road should be either painted up or rendered with plaster. On the Allehies Road the nameplate was quite grubby with red algae and virtually obscured by a rhododendron bush. This road indeed was quite overgrown although the rhododendrons and foxgloves were greatly admired. Advertising hoardings as previously mentioned were a problem on both roads in particular the Glengarriff Road and signage generally was quite grubby.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Castletownbere is a most attractive working town with much to offer both visitor and resident. It looked well on adjudication day.