

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLEFINN**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	228	224

Castlefinn, Co. Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Castlefinn is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your development plan. The view of the town's main buildings together with the many 'eyes' of the bridge on entering from the Castlederg road is beautiful and should be preserved in the event of any future development. The scenic view of the surrounding hills from the residential area on the road by the school should also be protected.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Handsome two and three storey buildings forming the Diamond were admired. The church and its grounds are excellent in presentation and the school and Garda Station are well presented also. McBrides is also worthy of mention. As you are aware, the gable wall with the 'Butchers' sign is a problem which will hopefully be redressed with new ownership.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaped verges along both sides of the N15 are a wonderful feature of Castlefinn. Young birch trees will mature to enhance their environment in winter with their beautiful bark. Green spaces are being well maintained and those on the N15 as well as those in the Diamond are excellent. What is the future for the green area located between 'Emmet Park' and the public road? Congratulations on the 'Landscaping Award'.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Well managed hedgerow along both sides of the Raphoe Road offer effective protection for a variety of wildlife species. There are important woodland habitats in the area also. It is good to note your plans to involve children in wildlife by way of an art competition. We wish you well with the redevelopment of old walks along the railway and the river. Pairc Eimeid had a nicely whitewashed entrance, well done! Be vigilant regarding weed growth here.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was good throughout most of the village but a few scraps were noted on the Diamond. It was not a serious problem but something that should be monitored carefully.

TIDINESS

The overall appearance of the village is one of tidiness. A weak area under this heading is one on the top of the hill of the road by the school. The 'Tracksend' property and adjacent car park looks untidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Housing along both sides of the N15 at the 'Sligo' end of the village was admired. No doubt new housing developments will be brought to a similar standard of presentation. The residential area on the top of the road beyond the school is less well presented than others and the road surface is very poor here. A rose garden across from the school was very much admired.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It is good to note that ESB service cables have been ducted, it should not be too long before the Eircom cables are removed also to give a wirescape free village centre. New street furniture is excellent. The car park located beside the Centra garage is underdeveloped, this appears to be part of the derelict Nite Club 'Tracksend'. Approach roads are well presented and the wildflower display on the Sligo road was visually appealing.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A visit to Castlefinn is a delightful experience. Try to prioritise the presentation of the area at the top of the hill beyond the school.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/01)

Litter control was a problem in Castlefinn on the second adjudication day – quite a lot was evident to the grass verges of the N15 and more was evident to the well maintained Diamond in the centre of the village. The grass verges on the main road with their timber benches and permanent planting were greatly admired as were the tubs filled with nasturtiums on the Diamond. Road surfaces along the streets of the village itself were in bad condition. The Jug of Punch could have been presented to a higher standard, in particular its gable wall, which was quite flaky. Despite these minor problems the village of Castlefinn looked well on the day.