

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLECOVE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	24
The Built Environment	40	19	19
Landscaping	40	21	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	21	20
Tidiness	20	6	8
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	4	5
TOTAL MARK	300	147	149

Castlecove, Co. Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator is very concerned to note that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation. Extremely basic information was provided to help the work of your adjudicator.

Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you must 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 your 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 essential aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition.

Do keep in mind that what is required is a simple Plan or document.

The Department of the Environment and Local Government has issued a Handbook 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.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church is the main building in your village and it would benefit greatly from some appropriate landscaping. This can be a combination of new flowerbeds and other planting. The nearby pottery and café are well presented as is the Post Office.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaped area on the Waterville side by the Speed Limit Sign was noted, and this area needs additional work. The boat idea does not appear to work very well and you might be better trying to simplify your landscaping here. Do however retain the sloping effect that you have at the moment. Perhaps there may be a better way of using the boat to symbolise the Castlecove links with the sea.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Try and develop further amenities that will encourage wildlife to your area. The first step however is to identify the species which inhabit any such areas. The planting of native berry

producing trees and shrubs can encourage wildlife. Your Committee might also consider the provision of bird and bat roosts and nesting sites in any old buildings. Make sure that any wildlife areas to which the public have access are properly signposted. In terms of access do remember the needs of people with disabilities. The development of these amenity walks and nature trails will add greatly to your area in the years ahead.

Has your Committee considered the erection of some information plaques about the wildlife to be seen in the area?

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control on the day of adjudication was quite good, though some litter was noted in the river.

TIDINESS

One of the problem areas is the garage area beside the bridge where the adjudicator noted five abandoned cars and other materials. This is in full view from the road. If this area cannot be cleaned up in a satisfactory manner, then screening may be a possibility. However do talk to the owners and get their views on the best way forward. The corrugated iron buildings are also in need of attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private housing is well presented and good strong colours have been used. Scairt house and grounds represents an excellent major programme of restoration. The stone boundary wall with the road is a fine feature.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some work has been carried out on approach roads and the bridge would be improved by painting the walls. Regular cutting on approach roads is necessary in order to achieve lush green verges. Do note however that cutting of banks should not take place before July in keeping with the needs of wildlife.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

One of the problems here is the lack of a Tidy Towns Action Plan as proposed at the beginning of this Report. This is now a major requirement of all towns and villages that enter the Competition. This Plan should be prepared by yourselves.

There is much work to be done and some of the problems are not in keeping with the village that won the European Green Village Award in 2000. You will find the Tidy Towns Handbook, a copy of which was sent to your Committee, of great help in your work. The adjudicator would like to wish you well in your work for 2002.