

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	20
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	222	217

Castleisland, Co. Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for a fine comprehensive submission and outline of your plan for 2000-2001. Your full and detailed response to entry form questions proves very helpful on adjudication day. Your ability to involve so many sections of the community including school pupils is commendable. Your programme also suggests all year round activity in Tidy Towns, so well done.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is no doubt that the area under scrutiny is very expansive and requires a great deal of attention. The town's principal streets offer a great variety of large buildings, any of great design and possessing rich traditional features. In general the public buildings e.g. Churches, Schools, Co. Council, Banks, Library are all well presented and many richly embellished with colourful window boxes and hanging baskets and other floral arrangements. Well done to AIB for replacing aluminium windows with timber ones. However you still have problems with many commercial buildings (some no longer in use). The approach from Limerick is dominated by two rusty corrugated roofs, highly visible. The garage has been unoccupied now for some years and is fast becoming derelict. N.C.O. stores are very well presented. The many new and freshly painted shops in the town centre, including the new development of De Búrca all combine to offer great colour. Indeed, the two main streets are by far your strong point and the rich display of standard lamps public hanging baskets and excellent tree planting give the town a great image.

LANDSCAPING

The extra tree planting at Tralee Road, Castlevue Drive, St. John's Park and Cahereens West is commendable. Of course the great landscaping development of previous years continues to enhance. It is acknowledged that you have a large quantity of trees etc to maintain and the town park alone is quite demanding on your time.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside walk is a splendid town amenity and offers unlimited scope for the promotion of wildlife. Your success in developing the river walk and the development of wildlife activities, to include display panels and habitat all help to keep your marks high in this section. Indeed, it is one of the best riverside walks in the region.

LITTER CONTROL

Regrettably, you still have a litter problem, and in this respect it is the community who are letting you down,

because litter bins are quite evident. In fairness, the litter problem was not widespread but confined to the core areas of the town.

TIDINESS

Your problems here relate to a multiplicity of derelict buildings, unoccupied houses and commercial buildings and unattended open spaces. It is not the intention of this adjudicator to revisit previous comments in this respect, but some black spot areas – especially surrounding the carpark are really very unsightly. The remedy for these areas may seem well beyond the scope of a Tidy Towns Committee but the traders of the town should be alerted to the poor image these areas present for an otherwise progressive Castleisland. The biggest disappointment is in some back areas. The site at the rear of Young Editions is a dumping ground, with abandoned fridges, old ovens, and a shop awning dumped in an area being used as a small car park. Surely the owners don't expect the local Tidy Towns group to remove these unwanted articles. The road backing up to the restored St. Stephens cemetery and church is a let down, with sheds being used as a dumping ground.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard here is good throughout. St. John's Park and Castle View Drive and others are well presented with many individuals playing a great leadership role. The many derelict and unoccupied premises in the town offer scope for urban renewal and you as a group should encourage this direction of development. It is a pity that there is no progress yet on the Castle Development.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

You have some new footpaths and the road surface throughout is good. Signage is also good and the cast aluminium bilingual street name signs are very effective.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You have maintained your standard with a little increase in some sections. Your strong points relate to the recent years works on the main street. You now need to concentrate on the approach roads apart from the Tralee approach. The town looked attractive on adjudication day and your efforts to get to grips with the widespread problems (in the absence of a bypass) of excessive traffic is to your credit. Longterm, the town would benefit significantly from freeing up more space for pedestrians in the main streets, but this problem is shared by so many other towns of similar size. Well done on a good performance.