

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLETOWN**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	21
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	36
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	262	258

Castletown, Co. Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Castletown is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for this year's application together with updated development plan and map. Both facilitated adjudication and made fascinating reading. It is good to note that the village will be bypassed in the future, this will surely enhance the quality of life in Castletown. Congratulations on having won the gold medal award last year. The spirit of co-operation which the committee fosters amongst the entire community is much in evidence on the ground.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the church and the convent are presented to their usual high standard and other buildings were much admired also. The redevelopment of the old garage for housing should improve this site significantly.

LANDSCAPING

Mature trees look exceptionally well and give a stately ambience to the village. Shrubberies are presented to their usual high standard. The new signs are most impressive. The ICA commemorative stone is an attractive feature also. A landscaped area on the Southern road needs to have its kerbstones cleared of long grass and weeds. Recently planted trees in the village centre will visually 'soften' the streetscape and young to maturing trees at various locations are well established and contributing to their environs in a variety of ways.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Millennium Plantation and Conservation project has been really worthwhile and will enrich the natural environment and natural amenity value of Castletown. The planned development of careful access to the wildlife meadow behind the girls school and associated activities is admirable. We wish you well in bringing it to fruition. The plans for the riverside nature trail to increase the structure and diversity of plant species and expand the range of wildlife habitats is also ambitious and admirable. It is good to note that the walking route is now well established and continues to mature. The features of Log Piles and the Duck Pond are good ideas also. Foróige are to be congratulated for their work on the riverbanks.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is excellent. Well done to the committee for the twice daily litter clean up and twice weekly emptying of bins.

TIDINESS

The overall appearance is one of tidiness. Building materials, of course, should be removed when construction work has ceased.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Styles of residential properties range from single storey dwellings at the Southern end of the village to two and three storey townhouses in the village centre and modern bungalows on the outskirts of the village. All are, of course, beautifully presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Another good presentation under this heading. Roads and footpaths are nicely developed. Street furniture is both attractive and functional and walls throughout are clear of weed growth.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Castletown has achieved a standard of excellence in all respects that is uncommon amongst Irish towns and villages.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/01)

Castletown is a beautiful village. The care and attention to detail is most impressive. Grass care and grass edging - which forms a considerable amount of the maintenance required in the village and surrounds is of an exceptionally high standard. The elegance and style of all the features sets Castletown apart from many places. The recent addition of the bronze sculpture commemorating the many young people who have died over the years from Castletown is a fitting symbol. This is nicely placed alongside the millennium oak plantation. The attractive entrance walls to Elderfield Estate and the choice of paint colour of the Church wall and railings are indicative of the elegance of Castletown.