

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLEGREGORY**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	--
The Built Environment	40	31	--
Landscaping	40	30	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	--
Litter Control	40	25	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	22	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	195	--

Castlegregory, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Castlegregory is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. The village enjoys an excellent location on the coast and within walking distance of lake and mountains. You did not submit a planned work programme. Try to have one prepared for next year's competition to ensure a co-ordinated rather than a piece-meal approach to development and to earn additional marks.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many buildings were well presented, however a number of important buildings were in need of upgrading, for example Ferriters and the Garda station. The boundary wall of the school needs to be cleaned and / or painted. The concrete block wall of the sports ground looks stark and is an unfortunate development in such a magnificent setting of mountain, lake and sea. Properties with a plain cement finish are in need of cleaning. The Community Hall was admired.

LANDSCAPING

The grounds of the Community Hall are beautifully landscaped, well done, however the carpark here should be resurfaced at some time in the future. Incidental landscaping marking the entrance from the Stradbally end of the village was admired also. A funfair was being set up on the crossroads in the village so this green area was not possible to consider under this heading. Young trees will enhance their environment significantly as they mature.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Lough Gill is a fine natural amenity to have so close to the village and no doubt it is a fine habitat for wild fowl. Has a species count been conducted? If so, we would like details. The plant life here was appreciated. Tall reeds swaying gently in the wind evoked feelings of tranquility. Nature walks to the surrounding hills might be identified and promoted for the benefit of all. The beach was reasonably well presented. Well done to those concerned.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was less good this year than in previous years. In particular the verges along the Strand road were quite littered and in the car park at the beach. Some litter, though not very much, was noted on the beach.

TIDINESS

There was a proliferation of weed growth throughout the village along kerbs, the base of walls, car parks and various

areas. This suggests neglect and is a problem that needs to be tackled in order to progress more under this heading. The vacant / derelict building which features building materials to its roadside and located out the Maherees road is visually imposing due to its scale. Hopefully the site will be redeveloped for the advantage of the community in years to come.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

New housing developments look well and most feature brightly painted roadside façades or are finished in stone. Many cement finished older houses are in need of cleaning. Encourage people to take responsibility for the areas immediately outside of their properties.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some stretches of road were quite potholed, both in the centre and on approach roads. A speed limit sign on the Maherees road needs to be realigned, it was facing the wrong way. The beach carpark looked well but as noted above, weeds and litter were noted. The carpark at Lough Gill was better presented. Wirescape in the village centre is visually obtrusive and hopefully this will be ducted in the years to come.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Castlegregory is positive. Unfortunately in places there tends to be a lack of consistency in presentation and insufficient attention to detail.