

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>222</b>

## **Castleisland, County Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Castleisland is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. The backdrop of hills and the lush countryside against which Castleisland is set complements your handsome town. Developments in recent years in the town are impressive. Thank you for your detailed submission. Work achieved to date is impressive and we wish you well in future implementation. Being located at the junction of two national primary routes, the town experiences a great deal of through traffic. Congratulations on the excellent standard of litter control and tidiness. It is good to note that you encourage new developments to be consistent with the character of the town. Well done on the support you receive from the local community, commercial interests and statutory bodies.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The town has a handsome stock of buildings and is a successful combination of both old and new. There are still a number of underdeveloped and vacant or derelict properties and hopefully these will be developed under the Town Renewal Scheme. We look forward to the development of a new library and area service office as detailed in your submission. The De Brún property is being considered for the Best Irish Shopfront Award. There are still a few plastic fascia and beer signs which could be removed together with dated awnings and canopies. The gable wall on which the 'Old Chapel Lane' sign is located and which forms a street corner should be cleaned or painted. The school located at the end of Old Chapel Lane is brightly painted and the murals here were admired. The church looks exceptionally well. The view of the church steeple surrounded by trees and set against a backdrop of low hills is a very attractive feature of the townscape of Castleisland. Buildings forming the corners of Chapel Lane should be presented to the highest standard by maintaining them cleaned or freshly painted. Hopefully this will be achieved with the sale of one of them (The Chicago Bar and Lounge). The low corrugated roof of Double Dutch needs to be refurbished. The high walls of the sports grounds should be cleaned or painted or planted as they are an important visual element of the town on entering from the Limerick Road. The old Jet station (now closed) presents a serious eyesore which hopefully will be resolved upon redevelopment.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Trees along the Main Street are maturing well. It may be feasible to remove the old tree guards now. Well done on the maintenance of existing shrubberies, rockeries and tubs, the planting of evergreens and ivies as screening is a good idea

and we look forward to the development of a Peace Garden. The newly landscaped areas of the Day Care Centre look promising. Well done on the maintenance and refurbishment of St. Stephen's Burial Grounds, they look superb. Your landscaping programme could be expanded to incorporate the curtilage area of the Community Centre. Landscaping here would ameliorate the harsh effect of this very large building. The Medieval Garden sounds exciting, hopefully it will be more further developed on our next visit and signposted from the Main Street.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Congratulations on your success in introducing ducks along the River Maine. The river walk is being considered for the Waterside Award. The Medieval Garden idea is a wonderful concept which will enhance the environment of the town substantially and promote awareness of wildflowers and their uses for the general public. It is good to note the old Gaelic titles of the plant. The entrance to the river walk from the Main Street is a little disappointing.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The signs regarding dog fouling on the river walk are an excellent idea and well done to the local fire brigade for the annual cleaning of the river. It is good to note that residents of housing estates take part in regular clean ups also. Your awareness campaign for business people and residents is an important initiative and plays a significant part in keeping Castleisland litter free.

### **TIDINESS**

It is good to note from your submission that the bottle bank and carpark are tidied on a regular basis and that the committee is aware of the need to keep weed growth down along kerbs and footpaths. A lot of derelict or semi-derelict buildings were noted on Old Chapel Lane. Encourage property owners to be vigilant regarding the appearance of curtilage areas of their properties.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Congratulations to the residents of Desmonds Avenue and their plans for new footpaths and under-grounding of service cables as well as flower displays. The O'Connell Demesne residential development is beautifully landscaped, well done. The overall standard of presentation under this heading is very good and many properties were admired.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Congratulations on the acquiring of funding for the under-grounding of service cables in Church Street. Well done also on developments in Barrack Street. Road surfaces and footpaths along Old Chapel Lane are quite good. Lampstandards are attractive and street furniture is presented to a reasonable standard. As suggested above it may be

appropriate to remove the tree guards as these don't look that good and they have probably served their purpose.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Castleisland is a handsome town with many exciting developments in recent years and plans for future development. We look forward to charting the progress of the town.