

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlelyons-Bridesbridg**

Ref: **558**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **231**

Category: **B**

Date: **02/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	37
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	33	34
Tidiness	20	13	11
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	231	225

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the very helpful material submitted with the application. The work carried out in the past few years is a marvelous achievement. This is a very big village with a huge amount of road frontage to be dealt with through the two villages and the results of work are very evident. With a committee of 20 this shows a very strong commitment. The plan for the next few years is interesting – perhaps a more comprehensive plan of action for the coming years would help at this stage to pinpoint precisely the details of the work ahead.

The Built Environment:

The old abbey and castle form an important part of the character of the village. The river and stream also give a great life to the villages and form a beautiful picture. Business premises are generally well tended to. The sign for the community centre could be renewed. The church, old cemetery buildings and all the beautiful walls around the villages are very attractive and you have made the most of these by revealing them where ever possible. The old forge, hopefully, will get a new life soon. The problem of the fast food unit continues. The painting of the backs of buildings of the main street of Castlelyons, as seen from the road by the pitch and putt centre, is a very good idea – frequently the backs of buildings are so unattractive. The Glanbia building is very prominent at its location. The school looks very well and cared for.

Landscaping:

There are many fine examples of landscaping along the roadsides through the villages. These are well maintained and give a nice effect. The grass vergers through the village associated with these plantings are so well kept. Planting at the front of Glanbia is good, but needs upgrading at this stage and some additional planting at one area where there is very little would be helpful. The field opposite this site could offer a great opportunity for tree planting inside the wall. The school grounds and church grounds are also attractive and well cared for. Many colourful containers outside the houses and business premises add to the summer colour. The large trees in and around the villages are very important and the village park gives a lovely mature effect. Trees at the background of the pitch and putt grounds create a lovely setting to the well-tended grass of the course. The stream bridge in the village park, while it is in place now, still needs a fair bit of work to each side to finish off, complete the walls and reinstate the area. The gardens of the houses at the Brother Kent Terrace are a delight to come across – seldom do you see so many houses and gardens of an estate together so well cared and tended - this gives a lovely sight. The green to the front is also attractive. The old cemetery is very picturesque and some maintenance there is welcome.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The idea of leaving the hedges uncut for some time is helpful on the Abbey Road for wildlife. This is now called a bird sanctuary. Some information about the range of birds this will attract would be helpful. It would be helpful to prepare information about what, where and when to see particular birds. A riverside walk would also be a very interesting project. The picnic area along the riverside, as marked on the map, was not complete although there is evidence of some work in progress. On the other side of the road at that point there is a lovely mown grass area by the riverbank. Also the stream by the Rathcormick road has good potential.

Litter Control:

There is generally a very clean appearance to the villages. Nevertheless, some litter was noted at the abbey within the ruin, including broken glass. The same applied to the Village park and the small green entrance to the few houses behind the shops towards the pitch and putt course. Some décor needing attention on that same road as it leaves the village was noted.

Tidiness:

There is a good degree of untidiness about in both villages. Again at the abbey, in the front space, the weeds are coming up through the gravel and pieces of unattractive plastic lining are breaking through. There is a dead cherry tree to be removed and the others are unwell; maybe new planting is called for. As mentioned above, the entrance greens to the little housing estate on the way to the pitch and putt course are very tatty. A wall at the same road needs attention. The storage of beer containers on the footpath is not the most attractive, but perhaps these were awaiting collection

Residential Areas:

The houses at the Brother Kent Terrace are really well cared for. The main street and approach road houses are generally well cared for. Many contribute extra well with their beautiful gardens which, in themselves, are a feature of the road side

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The bi-lingual signs are attractive and a nice addition. The approach roads are reasonably good. There is a poor footpath on the roadside at the old church land and graveyard, although an original stone kerbstone has been revealed and is an attractive find. Road surfaces on the main part of the roads are well marked and the cycle lane is a good addition. The carpark at the church is well marked and laid out.

General Impression:

The work achieved to date is great in a village with so long a road frontage. The bilingual signage and attention to detail and planning is to be commended.

Second Round Adjudication:

Both villages looked excellent for second adjudication. Roadside verges are being neatly maintained and young trees are maturing nicely as are shrubberies. Both the riverside park and the golf course are significant visual and recreational facilities. Litter control is excellent, but weed growth was noted in some areas which looked untidy. The old forge, the Glanbia complex, the building behind the recycling point and some boundary walls are in need of attention. On-street houses were nicely painted and the bridge is enjoying an excellent standard of maintenance. A very good overall presentation.