

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletownroche**

Ref: **113**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **250**

Category: **B**

Date: **03/08/0203**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	20
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	33
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>244</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The methodical style in which the progress of work is charted by the use of the table submitted is admirable. This clearly documents the great work that has been done in this lovely village over the past five years. The co-operation of the public bodies engaged in Castletownroche has assisted the project work very well.

### The Built Environment:

The work at the mill and adjacent walls is a tremendous success. This has been going on now for a number of years and the result is a great credit to all concerned. The two churches at either end of the town look very well. The grave of Tommy Conway is always visited and acknowledged. Perhaps a plaque on the house where he was born would be appropriate. The creamery continues to present problems as do a number of sites within the streets. The efforts made to conceal these houses shows great initiative and hopefully a resolution will arrive before too long. With so many houses planned at Castle Field it is a pity that the derelict houses could not form part of new housing within the streets. A bridge to link the mill to the far riverbank would be very helpful rather than having to walk the entire way around to the mill, particularly as there is no footpath at the bridge. Alternatively a pedestrian bridge could be constructed at the river side of the bridge where the pipe is attached to the wall. Many of the shops and public houses look very well painted and, in general, there is a high standard of presentation through the village. Those that need attention have become very obvious now with rising standards.

## **Landscaping:**

The area at the tSlí Ghearr is very attractively planted and has progressed through the years to look very well.. Planting at Tom Hunter Park is looking exceptionally well with the new style of planting, including the chipping areas. One cherry tree towards the centre seems to be suffering. The containers are attractively filled. The opposite side of the road at that point is also well treated. The grassed areas by the river form a very simple and effective treatment for this area and show off the mill to perfection. The shrubberies to the roadside at the mill and opposite the creamery are all planted and have an interesting range of plants. The grotto planting is also attractive and forms a nice approach to the town. The road surfacing and kerbing help these. The variegated ivy on the green painted wall at Nash's garage is a pleasant sight. An area at Donal Shinnok estate is also attractive with picnic tables and well cared for lawns and borders. Many houses also contribute well in this category by their care and attention to their gardens. The many hanging baskets and window boxes give a lovely summer colour to the town.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The riverside areas are an obvious place to enjoy the wild life of the area. A riverside walk that could extend alongside the river for a distance would be ideal. This could also have information signs to show what could be expected to be observed, where and when. In the past, it was possible to walk along the river in the upward direction, but unfortunately this is no longer accessible

## **Litter Control:**

Litter care is of a high standard, apart from a few small pieces of litter, the entire village and riverside areas were very clean. The problem of the car boot sale is a difficult one, but hopefully a solution can be found. Litterbins were noted.

## **Tidiness:**

There is a very tidy appearance evident in the village and a very orderly approach. The few premises that require attention are less than before and care is taken to camouflage derelict buildings. Building materials and debris when building is in progress is always a difficulty and it is important to be sure that all such materials are removed when the job is complete and the area is reinstated.

## **Residential Areas:**

The two housing estates Tom Hunters and Donal Shinnock both look well cared for. The great amount of house painting that is done in Castletownroche is acknowledged. There is a very interesting variety of colour schemes and people are taking great care with this. The street looks very colourful. There are many residences within the village giving a great vibrancy to the village centre.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach road to the village area attractively presented. Entry by the grotto shows the shrubberies looking extremely well. On entering by the Tom Hunter estate, another attractive picture is presented. By the GAA fields, the stonewalls and cleaned areas are noteworthy. The well-painted houses by the Doneraile and by the Donal Shinnick houses give this entrance its own character. Footpaths through the town are well cared for with many in attractive brick combinations.

## **General Impression:**

Castletownroche is a very picturesque village to enjoy. The work by the mill and surrounds is a great

asset and the streets are lovely. The new name stones were noted.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The entrance to Castletownroche from the Kildorrery Road is magnificent with its handsome stands of mature trees and high stone walls. The exposed rock opposite the mill generates an ambience of drama which is complemented by maturing shrubberies. The river bank is a fine amenity development in all respects. The pedestrian bridge is a lovely feature. We eagerly anticipate the completion of work in progress at the mill and adjacent building. Flower displays and shrubberies at the Mallow entrance to the village are stunning, as are new namestones. Indeed, planting throughout Castletownroche is of the highest standard. Your planting programme could be extended to incorporate the school grounds, however, the latter were neatly presented. The church at the top of the village appears to be a little weather stained. Litter control was excellent. Buildings are being well maintained and unpainted buildings in many cases featured colourful flower displays in window boxes. We anticipate the ducting of service cables at some stage in the future. Street name plates were noted and admired. The function at the signs for Doneraile Anns Grove Gardens was beautifully presented. Freshly whitewashed walls and buildings were noted and appreciated. New town houses are blending into their streetscapes well. Well done on new footpaths.