

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletownbere**

Ref: **491**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **202**

Category: **C**

Date: **26/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	202	199

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome your new Committee and wish them every success in their work in the years ahead. It is noted that it is your intention to have your Tidy Towns Plan in place for next year.

Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. This Tidy Towns Plan should have the support of the community, local groups other agencies and the County Council. It would therefore guide you Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme will detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan that is updated annually is now an essential aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition.

Do keep in mind that what is required is a simple Plan or document.

The Built Environment:

The Call of the Sea visitor centre is an excellent new use for an old building. At Dinish Island the new Irish Coast Guard building is innovative in design, but it is appropriate to the site. It is noted that much renovation work has taken place in Castletownbere or was underway at the time of adjudication. Some of the buildings that stand out include the Beara Bay premises, the Old Bakery,

and the work on the Old Mariner restaurant. Good work at the Super Valu premises was also noted, as was the excellent presentation of the Church of Ireland building. Some attention is required at the Castletownbere Fishermans Co-Operative building where repainting of the road boundary wall is now urgent. Good presentation was noted at the Hospital, and some re-painting is also required at the Regional Fisheries Centre. The overall presentation of the busy Pier area has improved and this is welcomed. On the back road some derelict buildings still remain and hopefully there may plans for some of these old buildings in the future. There is a strong sense of colour in Castletownbere and the AIB premises is a good example of where a strong colours works really well. At the playground some of the seats are in need of painting with child friendly painting.

Landscaping:

There is some good landscaping potential on either side of the road by the new bridge, and hopefully a good landscaping scheme can be put in place at an early date. The Square is an important area in the town and some landscaping would greatly improve the appearance of this key area. Additional trees that would help to break up visually the parked cars is one possibility. Other smaller areas that have been landscaped were noted. Some properties have provided hanging baskets or window boxes and these are effective. However care must be taken not to over do the provision of such floral displays.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The appearance of Dinish Island has greatly improved and hopefully wildlife can be encouraged into this area. However additional work remains to be done here. Have you considered having a Survey carried out of the flora and fauna in the town area? The results of such a Survey would help your Committee to focus on planting that will encourage wildlife to the area. A logical step following the Survey would be to provide display plaques illustrating the local flora and fauna.

Litter Control:

Your report notes that the Waste Transfer Station hopefully will be operational by end 2003. This is an excellent development. Litter control generally was quite good on the day of adjudication.

Tidiness:

As noted earlier the overall presentation of the Pier area has improved. The signposts close to the car ferry slip-way look most unattractive - there are approximately 14 different signs using a number of sign types. Can your Committee talk to Cork County Council to see if some improvements can take place? Some very untidy open spaces were noted on the Back Road and these should be screened off from view if they are not to be re-developed in the short term.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas were in general well presented. Watch out for some road boundary walls that are in need of painting, and occasional weed growth where pavements meet the roadside. Some very colourful gardens were noted on the Glengarriff approach road. Some good presentations with attractive mature gardens were noted on the Dunboy approach road. Tallon Heights on the Tallon Road was under development at the time of adjudication. It is to be hoped that a high standard of landscaping will be put in place for this development. Some new private development was noted on the Back Road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Eyerias approach some work is necessary on the roadside banks which look a little overgrown. The approach to Castletownbere from the Tallon Road requires a lot of work as road banks again are very overgrown. The road from the new estate down to the main road is a section of

the road that needs urgent attention. On the approach road from Dunboy the banks / verges before the 30 MPH Speed Limit signs are badly overgrown and need trimming.

General Impression:

Good work is being carried out in Castletownbere and improvements are obvious in a number of areas. Your Tidy Towns Plan will help to set your work programme for 2004. Towards the end of 2004 the Plan must then be up-dated for 2005. Good luck with your work in the future.