

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletownshend**

Ref: **562**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **221**

Category: **A**

Date: **30/06/2003**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2003 | Mark Awarded 2002 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 32 | 33 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 28 | 28 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 20 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 33 | 32 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 12 | 12 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 26 | 26 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 30 | 31 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 221 | 223 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

The application form received from your Committee states that "We have many projects". However no further information was provided to the adjudicator as to the nature of these projects. Also no map was provided. The purpose of the map is to highlight everything that you would wish to bring to the attention of the adjudicator.

The adjudicator is also very concerned to note that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation.

Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you must prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme 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:

Fine stone walls and stone buildings are one of the key features of Castletownshend and it is this aspect of the built environment that gives this village a very special character. The long steep hill ending at the sea shore ties the whole village together. Many buildings in the village impress but among those that caught the eye were - Fuchsia with its beautiful textured old stone, Sundial House, Rocket House, The Castle and the Church of Ireland church so beautifully maintained. The more modern buildings tend to sit well with the older buildings in the village.

Landscaping:

Good grassed areas were noted on the left hand side opposite the high stone wall on the Skibbereen approach. Another excellently landscaped area is the area of the "Battle of Castlehaven" plaque. The "Two Trees" is a key feature of the village and they have matured well in recent years. A number of smaller landscaped areas were noted in association with private houses.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is no indication that any work is being done on the wildlife aspect of Castletownshend. Have you considered carrying out a simple local survey of the wildlife and flora to be found in your area? The results of this could be made available to the public through the use of large illustrated plaques that can be mounted in a few appropriate locations. The Pier area is quite attractive though re-surfacing here in a sympathetic material would be welcomed.

Litter Control:

Litter control was generally excellent on adjudication day and the standard set by the community in 2002 is being maintained.

Tidiness:

Some untidy back areas were noted. These need to be screened from public view or tidied up. Grass and weed growth was noted at the base of walls on the Skibbereen approach and also in the cul-de-sac area. You should see if you can get permission to paint all field gates.

Residential Areas:

With few exceptions private residences looked well on adjudication day. In some cases painting or re-painting is necessary and this is probably planned for the future by the owners. A major new development was noted at "The Lawn". Hopefully the external finishes of these houses will be appropriate to the character of Castletownshend. Likewise there should be appropriate landscaping plans included in this development.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Skibbereen approach the Montbretia provides a fine display. The uprights that support the wire fencing might be painted and the long grass should be removed in this area. On the Tragumna approach there is little indication that there has been recent work carried out on the roadside banks. The village sign is obscured by long grass and the overall appearance of this approach to the village disappoints. The Main Street looked well with the wide range of strong colours used. At the cul-de-sac some work had been done on the small grassed area near the Hydrangas. However much more work is required here as this could be a very attractive landscaped area.

General Impression:

Castletownshend has much potential in the competition. However work must proceed on a planned basis. Do not forget the Action Plan to be prepared by your Committee - it will be of great help to you.