

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlebellingham-Kilsaran**

Ref: **183**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **225**

Category: **B**

Date: **22/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	
The Built Environment	40	29	
Landscaping	40	30	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	
Litter Control	40	30	
Tidiness	20	16	
Residential Areas	30	25	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	
General Impression	10	7	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>225</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for their entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. This entry contained a very well completed Entry Form and associated information, a current and long term Programme of Development, a Town Map and a very good series of photographs showing work completed. Well done. These documents are of great help to the Adjudicator in seeing the work being done and they should also be of benefit to the Committee in monitoring the yearly programme. The Committee's liaison work with the County Council, FÁS, E.S.B., Eircom, the Heritage Council, the pupils of the school and the local community is outstanding. It is very important to continue this liaison work with the various groups mentioned above, as they can give invaluable help and advice to the Committee.

### The Built Environment:

Castlebellingham is a very pleasant and historic village on the N1. Thankfully the heavy through truck and car traffic that passed through has now been moved to the motorway by-pass and has left the village relatively calm. The Adjudicator remembers being part of this through traffic. The Committee can now proceed with their programme of work, especially on main street, without the constant noise, pollution and danger. There are many historic buildings and monuments in the village and the Committee is to be congratulated on their programme of rehabilitation, which is adding such interest to the village. A small but important item that could now be undertaken is a series of similar plaques with a short history of these buildings and monuments. Possibly funding

could be got for this work. The Village Green, now that it has been completed, looks wonderful. Well done to the Committee and all that helped towards its completion. With heavy through traffic somewhat gone, the Green can now be appreciated more fully. Possibly in years to come, more can be made of the river Glyde and bring it more into the fabric of the village. Wirescape on Main Street could be tackled soon. It is expensive and difficult to remove overhead cables, but the Committee should wait for the opportunity when work is being done on Main Street and then get the E.S.B. and the County Council to work together on their removal.

### **Landscaping:**

There are very fine stands of trees in the village and this gives a charming and mature feeling. However, the Committee should consider a tree planting programme to various areas of the village such as the schools, part of the Church grounds, the football grounds and to some of the newer housing areas. The pupils of the schools should be a very strong element in this programme, not only to give them a pride in their village, but their involvement can curtail vandalism to the trees. Trees should be berried or with other forms of fruit bearing trees. Species could be oak, ash, rowan, beech, chestnut or thorn. The riverside path along the river Glyde could be initiated in the coming years.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The village has a designated Area of Scientific Interest which is a treasure to have so close. The Office of Public Works, Environmental Section, could be contacted for advice that the Committee might think of undertaking. However, better to leave the area develop on its own.

### **Litter Control:**

No litter was seen in the village on the day of adjudication and the Committee should be congratulated on this fine achievement and its continuing programme of the fight against litter in its various forms. It is heartening that there is a litter warden available. This person, backed up with prominent display boards in various parts of the village, showing the statutory lawns relating to packaging material from shops, general litter and dog pollution and the fines applicable to these, should further diminish this ever present social problem.

### **Tidiness:**

Castlebellingham was a very pleasant and tidy village on the day of adjudication and again the Committee should be congratulated on this fine achievement. An item that may not occur in this village, but is worth mentioning, is that there is a tendency, during the school holiday period, to neglect the school grounds. It is important that pupils should be organised to keep the grasses cut and to pick up windblown litter and also keep the adjoining verges, kerbing and bases of walls free from weeds.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are some very fine gardens, both on the approach roads into Castlebellingham and with the village itself. These owners should be congratulated on the care and attention and the feeling of welcome these gardens give. The Adjudicator was very pleased to see representatives from the various residential areas on the Committee and it is a positive link between all of them. It is suggested that the Committee could organise two related Competitions, one between the various residential areas and the other a Gardens Competition especially aimed at new gardens. These two competitions could make a significant impact within a few years. The Alms houses were wonderful buildings, but need much maintenance.

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

As stated above, many of the gardens on the approach roads are excellent and give a great feeling of welcome. The picnic site is great and the Committee is to be commended on the use of recycled plastic for the new table and seat. The verges on most of the roads were well maintained on the day of adjudication. If it is found that the wide verges, in places, are too wide and onerous for grass cutting, a verge of one and a half metres is sufficient to cut and the remaining uncut grasses can be left as contrast and possibly sown in places with wild flower mix. This area can then blend into the adjoining hedgerows and be an added area for fauna. A programme should be organised to keep road signs clean and free of grasses.

### **General Impression:**

Castlebellingham is a very welcoming and pleasant village and the Committee is to be congratulated on the very well detailed Programme of Works. It shows in the quality of finishes and general care on the approach roads, on Main Street and on the rehabilitation of the many heritage buildings and monuments.