

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletown Kilpatrick**

Ref: **387**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **193**

Category: **A**

Date: **18/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	15
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	193	187

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for their entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. As pointed out in last year's Adjudicator's report, a brief three to five year plan, a schedule of completed works and an improved sketch of the village should be included. The plan and schedule of works is of great help to the adjudicator, but would also be of great help to the Committee in formulating their proposals for the development of the village. The adjudicator would also like to read more on the assistance the Committee receives from the people of the village and the County Council.

It is important that the Committee should monitor proposed development in the village by inspecting planning submissions in the County Council Planning Office. Only by knowing about future development will the Tidy Towns Committee be in a position to plan their own work in a constructive manner.

The Built Environment:

Castletown-Kilpatrick is a small attractive and relatively compact village developed around a cross-roads. The Church is the focal point of the cross-roads and is a very fine building with well kept grounds. Hanging baskets add to the general charm of some of the houses and a feature should be made of additional flower baskets in future years. The school grounds were tidy, but tree planting is badly needed. Though there is some disruption due to new building works, this can be overcome through discussions with builders and their clients.

Landscaping:

Though there are some very fine groups of trees in parts of the perimeter of the village, there is a general lack of trees within the village. The Committee should undertake or encourage a tree planting programme in the new house sites, the school grounds, around the football pitch and on the verges of the roads leading into the village.

Trees should be indigenous, using varieties such as oak, beech, ash, chestnut, lime and thorn. The pupils of the school should be encouraged to play an important role in this tree planting programme.

As mentioned above, additional hanging flower baskets would add colour to the village. It is also suggested to the Committee that they should consider the creation of a mulch bank from the grass cuttings and leaves. The mulch could then be used in various locations throughout the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There was no reference in the Entry Form to a programme or map in relation to the encouragement of wildlife within the village. This is often difficult to achieve in a satisfactory manner. Much better to concentrate on the correct berried and fruit bearing trees to encourage bird life within the village. Possibly ENFO could be contacted to obtain some of the very fine publications they produce on wildlife conservation.

Litter Control:

There was very little litter within the village on the day of adjudication and the Committee is to be congratulated on this achievement. Possibly the pupils of the school should be organised to do a weekly trawl of the village, both to pick up litter and to encourage the pupils themselves to have a pride in their village. A few litter bins in strategic locations are needed and should be obtained, if possible, from the County Council. This would complement the collection bins for glass, cans and paper already supplied by the Council. Of course the normal litter collection by the Council must be a part of this overall programme.

Tidiness:

In general, the village was most pleasant to come into. However, the first item noticed by the Adjudicator was a traffic sign with no lettering at the crossroads adjoining the Church's enclosing wall. This gives a bad impression and signage, in general, on the approach roads and within the village, should be greatly improved. In particular, there should be adequate warning signs at the School grounds.

Residential Areas:

Many of the front gardens of the houses on the approach roads into the village and within the village itself are most pleasant and add to the general feeling of care throughout. It is suggested that the Committee could organise a Gardens Competition which would include both new and established gardens. This competition would undoubtedly raise standards even higher and encourage many more people to contribute.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads into the village are pleasant and the crossroads with high adjoining walls gives a feeling of surprise on entering. Verges need not be cut back to adjoining hedgerows, one metre to one and a half metres is often sufficient, but wild flower and grasses should then be encouraged for the remainder of the verge. Signage, as noted above, should be improved and grasses cut around them.

General Impression:

Castletown-Kilpatrick is a small compact, pleasant village and quite a surprise to come onto. Additional selected tree planting would add to this character. Signage should be improved.