

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlerea**

Ref: **354**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **213**

Category: **D**

Date: **12/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	
The Built Environment	40	28	
Landscaping	40	32	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	
Litter Control	40	27	
Tidiness	20	12	
Residential Areas	30	21	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	213	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Castlerea is welcome to the 2003 Tidy Towns Competition, it is good to have the town re-entering. A lot of work has been achieved since our last visit. We note that you did not include a detailed work programme covering the next three to five years. Do submit one next year as it is difficult to make very much progress in the competition without it. Well done on your fund raising activities and on working in partnership with the county council, FAS, the Town trust and of course the schools. We wish you well in your project of developing the old Church of Ireland building as an Art and Heritage Centre. The before and after photographs you sent in are useful, Thank you.

The Built Environment:

The town has a fine stock of handsome buildings however too many of these are in need of simple painting in some cases and more serious refurbishment in others. There are also many derelict looking buildings. The town square looks really well and landscaping here was admired. We look forward as noted above to the development of the Arts and Heritage Centre. Stone wall refurbishment and construction around the town has been noted. Well done on this. The bridge over the Cloonard River near the swimming pool has some decorative features, however these need to be refurbished. Hopefully Hanley Hall will be refurbished also at some stage in the future. The railway buildings and the railway station looked very well.

Landscaping:

In the opinion of this adjudicator your Town Park is your strongest feature in terms of the competition. It was a delight to experience the tree lined walks and woodland area along the River Francis. Perhaps the map showing these walks could be refurbished as it is beginning to look a little tatty. Both squares look very well and indeed landscaping at the roadside edge of the Livestock Mart was admired also. We note developments under this heading at the Williams-town road junction together with the playground near the industrial estate. The stand of mature trees out the Ballintober road were admired and are a handsome feature.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No-doubt the Town Park has a variety of wildlife habitats, perhaps these could be surveyed and the results featured on a display board. Wild life in other areas of the town and environs might be surveyed also. Seating on the river bank and on green areas leading to the bridge over the river noted above in many instances were in need of repainting.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent, Well done. Your daily sweeping of roads and footpaths together with daily emptying of litter bins is paying dividends as very little litter was noticed. Two weak spots were noticed, one at the junction leading down to the Swimming Pool and the other in the environs of the railway station.

Tidiness:

Apart from derelict buildings already referred to and some undeveloped sites at various points around the town. Castlerea was quite tidy. Sprayed weeds along kerbs and the base of walls tend to give a very untidy and neglected appearance and must be removed

Residential Areas:

New residential developments throughout the town are looking well and all appear to be finished to high standard. One new housing development on Williamstown road was spoilt some what in its presentation by an overgrown verge to its roadside boundary walls. Many boundary walls to residential properties on the road on which the Arts and Heritage Centre is located are in need of attention. Boundary walls out the Ballintober road could be upgraded also.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Congratulations on newly surfaced roads and footpaths throughout the town. This really is a grand achievement and has earned you additional marks. Some stretches of footpaths in the environs of the Castlerea Business Park have yet to be refurbished. The posts of many road signs need to be refurbished also. The immediate environs of the nameplate on entering the town from the Ballintober road looks poor. The road to the prison is well developed. The improvement of stone walls throughout the town is acknowledged.

General Impression:

Castlerea is a pleasant town with many fine features one of which is the Town Park. However its buildings are not presented to its full potential, A concerted effort should be made to get property owners to present their buildings to the highest standard.

