

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlelyons-Bridesbridge**

Ref: **244**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **239**

Category: **B**

Date: **02/08/2004**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 40 | 39 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 31 | 30 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 22 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 34 | 33 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | 13 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 24 | 23 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 33 | 32 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 239 | 231 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

From the data submitted with entry form it is clear that the Castlelyons and Bridesbridge Heritage and Tidy Towns Group adopt an active approach to the Competition. Obviously there is good coordination in the work programme for these twin villages and the result presents a very pleasant environment in the area. The community should continue with this approach and if the same level of cooperation prevails considerable further progress can be made.

The Built Environment:

Buildings generally in the villages are well presented. The Catholic church and grounds are excellently maintained. The school premises are well attended to and the flower planting in this vicinity looks well. The Community Centre which is an important building in the villages is well maintained. It should be a source of pride for the community to have the well maintained outline structure of Castlelyons Friary in the vicinity. It is a fascinating structure and the explanatory plaque erected in the grounds is indeed interesting. Also of great interest is the ruin of Barryroe Castle and the explanatory plaque here which is set in stone is informative. The premises of the Pitch & Putt Club are neatly maintained. Business premises in the villages were well maintained.

Landscaping:

Some attractive landscaping work has been carried out in both villages. The landscaping work carried out in the vicinity of the Pitch and Putt Club is very effective. The landscaping of the green area of the Castle plaque is excellent. In the amenity area which developed near the river in Bridesbridge, tree planting which has been carried out here will enhance this area considerably. Very good use is made of flower tubs near the church; these are colourful and are obviously regularly attended to. The flower planting which has been carried out at the approach roads to the villages is colourful. Also the flower tubs along the street near the Abbey add colour to this area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The village areas are such that many species of wildlife will be attracted anyway. The river as well as the natural vegetation in the vicinity of the village would be likely to attract a variation of wildlife. However the designation of an area near the friary for wildlife is a good idea and bird boxes here will probably be an asset. The stream in the area of the village Park was clean and pleasant.

Litter Control:

There was a reasonably good level of litter control in the villages. There was not any evidence of litter on the streets. There was a considerable amount of a variation of litter in a corner of that area close to the Community Centre premises at the entrance to the playing Field area. It seemed an effort had been made to burn this but a considerable amount remained and it looked unsightly. There was a small amount of litter in the vicinity of the Bottle Bank near the Glanbia premises. There was a small amount of litter along Abbey Lane in the vicinity of the Abbey. It is suggested that a litter bin be placed here.

Tidiness:

This year there seemed to be considerable improvement in the level of tidiness overall in the villages. The streets were tidy and adjoining business premises were also quite tidy; in particular immediate areas in the vicinity of large businesses such as Kearney Bros. and Glanbia were quite tidy. The Village Park and Pitch and Putt area were both very tidy. The main street was very tidy. The general area in the vicinity was extremely clean and tidy. The car park too in the vicinity of the church was very tidy. The bridge area, walls etc. in Bridesbridge were very clean.

Residential Areas:

Houses and gardens in the villages were very nicely presented. There was considerable use of colourful hanging baskets, window boxes and flower tubs and all combined present a cheerful and colourful atmosphere. The residential area near the Pitch and Putt Club in Bridesbridge was very neatly presented. In Bridesbridge houses and gardens at Ardan Ceannt - Brothers Kent Terrace were nicely presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The use of stone for advance signs for the villages is original and looks well. The flower planting on the various approach roads added colour. Grass verges were generally neatly trimmed. On the footpath on the approach to Castlelyons there remained a considerable amount of burned grass/weeds which had obviously been treated with weed-killer at a too-late stage and this would need to be avoided for the future as it looks unsightly. The retaining of the old water pump in Bridesbridge makes a nice feature here. The new picnic table in the riverside amenity area in Bridesbridge enhances this area. Stone walls throughout the village are generally well maintained. A seat in the Park area was in need of repainting. The large sign set in stone for the Pitch and Putt club in the Park area was considered to be impressive. The entrance to the fine playing field facility was very tidy. The new footpaths which have been laid down in the vicinity of Cnocan na Radharc look well. Near the church there is a memorial cross which is being well maintained. The site of the old Forge is noted in Bridesbridge.

General Impression:

These are very attractive twin villages in a tranquil rural setting. With the old Friary and Castle there is an atmosphere of history and the community has succeeded in a good presentation of the past and the present. A considerable amount of progress has been made here. It is suggested that you follow in a coordinated way, the programme which you have outlined. By doing so the community will see further progress.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a pleasure to experience the beautiful landscaping of Castlelyons - Bridesbridge at the time of second adjudication, your efforts under this heading are quite magnificent ranging from well maintained verges to neat hedgerows and attractive shrubberies with young and mature trees not to mention colourful flower displays. Might the gable wall of the premises overlooking the bridge be more profusely planted with a climber as it is an important focal point in the townscape? The gates to the side of this premises are worth retaining so they should be refurbished. A number of buildings are in need of cleaning and/or painting, these include Barry's Newsagents and the adjoining residential property plus a nearby pub. The village is being considered for a number of awards. The footpath along Church Lane should be reinstated and the old kerb stones here retained and featured. Well done on your heritage and other information panels together with street name signs. Hopefully the weather stained walls to the Glanbia premises will be rehabilitated. You might consider requesting a fingerpost sign in Coolagown for Castletownlyons - Bridesbridge as the village is not featured on all maps; additional sign posts between both villages are suggested also. Some boxes were noted at the recycling point. Avoid allowing this to become a normal practise as it can give rise to problems of untidiness and you may lose marks under this heading. Hopefully new residents will be brought on board the Tidy Towns initiative. Litter control was very good.