

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletownroche**

Ref: **376**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **253**

Category: **B**

Date: **03/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	34
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	253	250

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of work on hand. The sketch map proved most useful on adjudication day. It would appear from your details that you are coming to the final year of your five-year plan. If this is the case you will need to update your plans for the next three years. You are now at a stage in the competition when attention to detail is all important and extra marks will be hard earned. You have done well in recent years and some of your projects have been extensive in tackling: e.g., The Mill. You are richly endowed with a host of natural and manmade attractions and your ability to landscape to such a high degree is most commendable. Your policy of working with all the relevant agencies is the way forward, but most of all your ultimate success will depend on the community commitment.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings are well presented again this year and the mill is now your most focal and dominant building on this attractive approach. We note the current work on the adjacent buildings and hope they will be restored in keeping with the traditions and character of the area: if you are replacing the windows we suggest you retain the sash design in its current form. An information chronology of the history of the mill would be of great interest to visitors. Of course the two churches dominate both ends of the village and their presentation is important. We suggest you now pool your efforts and resources for one year and paint the plaster area of the catholic church and clean up the stone and limestone pillar areas. This would expose this fine building and improve the vista focus as your

travel up the village. You should also remove the high shrubbery inside the boundary wall: this would give an improved view of the church and expose the stain glassed windows. Shopfronts are well presented and the following looked well: Butchers Shop, Batterberrys, Fitzgibbon and Duffy's Pharmacy. The Esso garage is well presented with some attractive flower displays. You still have too many plastic signs and the Take Away is too loud and needs improvement. The school gates need replacing and the barriers should be painted.

Landscaping:

This is undoubtedly your strong point and great credit is due to all concerned for a wonderful colourful display of trees, shrubs and flowers. The collective and individual effort in this section is admirable. Approach roads are all important and the Fermoy and Mallow approaches are superb. The grotto is freshly painted and complements the mill landscaping. We acknowledge the presentation of the creamery and note your comments regarding its uncertain future. Well done on the flower display at the Doneraile/ Shanballymore junction. The flower garden at Hunter Place is excellent and sets the scene for a colourful Castletownroche.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are well positioned to gain extra marks in this section and the river offers you unlimited potential for promoting wildlife. We noticed an abundance of mallard and their young on the banks of the river at the mill on the eve of adjudication day. Of course your generous landscaping is also contributing to wildlife. Down the road you might consider a display map on the river bank.

Litter Control:

It was collection day in the village and litter control for the most part was good. Litter bins are well positioned and seem adequate in numbers. Litter control is everybody's business and ideally we should aim for personal discipline of our waste and not be relying on others to pick up our litter.

Tidiness:

You have some problems in this area and some open spaces are neglected and causing untidiness: e.g. a small open space out of the village for Doneraile. Again this year we commend your efforts in dealing with derelict and unoccupied houses and the use of red paint and whitewash is quite acceptable. The area around the handball alley is a bit drab and the field gate of the planned housing development should be painted. No doubt the development of 83 houses in the village will certainly change the face of Castletownroche for good.

Residential Areas:

The two principal residential housing schemes are well presented and some individuals have excelled in presentation. At Hunter Place many boundary walls are in need of urgent attention: could the residents be persuaded to develop and present all boundary walls similar in colour and design?, it would have a profound impact. The row of infill houses on the Doneraile Street is excellent and all well presented. We notice the new developments within the village and hope these will be finished with appropriate materials that blend in with the character of the area. We have to say that there are too many pvc and aluminium windows and doors in the village: many on attractive period buildings. You need to keep a balance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As mentioned, approach roads are good and this extends to road structure, signage and layout. The street signage is very explicit and well designed. We acknowledge the village entrance signs: these need to be in Irish and English. Encourage developers to give housing developments appropriate names, with relevance to the area. Well done to the GAA for a well kept development and excellent

grass areas. Perhaps you might go the extra mile and paint the entrance wall and erect an appropriate sign. We nearly missed the wonderful developments at the castle, a most impressive complex with distinctive tower house and restored outbuildings.

General Impression:

Making a first adjudication to this attractive village this adjudicator was impressed with the combination of mature and new trees, lavish landscaping, restored buildings, welcoming approach roads, brightly painted premises, and vivid evidence of good community spirit. Well done and good luck for 2005.

Second Round Adjudication:

Castletownroche looked splendid on a miserable wet day in August and flower displays throughout looked cheerful. Your strength is surely your landscaping on approach roads, entrances and indeed on the riverbank; well done! The environs of both the school and the Catholic church and grounds were neat as were the environs of the Recycling point. If the castle enjoys public access it should be sign posted from the main street. Landscaping on the public green areas at Shinnick Place was excellent however some boundary walls and outhouses are weather stained and could be improved with cleaning and/or painting; perhaps a coordinated colour scheme might be adopted for this residential development. Keep up the good work encouraging property owners to eliminate dated signage on their premises. Some resurfacing is necessary on the roadside edge on the entrance to Castletownroche from the Mallow approach road and the concrete post and wire fencing here should be planted. We look forward to the maturation of juvenile plants near the Mill development. The entrance from the Fermoy road was admired particularly the church on its magnificent site overlooking the town and environs together with the ivy clad private dwelling at ground level.