

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletownbere**

Ref: **578**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **206**

Category: **C**

Date: **04/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	18
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	206	202

Overall Developmental Approach:

Castletownbere Tidy Towns Committee certainly show a lot of interest in the town's future development. Your work in relation to litter control on Sundays is to be commended but perhaps you could consider extending this to a more frequent basis, particularly in the Summer time, due to the high level of visitors to the town. Your work in relation to approaching the County Council in regarding the footpaths of the town is to be commended, as indeed is your work in relation to undergrounding of cables.

The Built Environment:

The Call of Sea Visitor Centre in the old national school on the Eyeries Road was admired. In terms of commercial premises one or two of the shops appeared extremely patchy in comparison to the standard of others, one adjacent to Niki's Restaurant and another shop without a name both looked quite shabby. Do ensure that render is not removed from traditional vernacular shop fronts, as this is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but can also lead to problems with water penetration. The Church of Ireland and its grounds looked well, as did the adjacent Tourist Office. The Catholic Church and Grounds were well maintained, although the structure supporting the bell was in bad condition and the rear gate to the church appeared quite rusty. The Beara Bay Hotel was fine, although its boundary wall was in bad condition and will need repainting before next year's competition. Of note were the Ivy Bar, the Flower Shop, Thai Restaurant and McCarthy's Bar. The Post Office was also quite fresh. The hospital and grounds were well maintained. The new school was

admired and is finished extremely well with attractive stone walling. The galvanized gates to the adjacent old school building should be painted. The Health Centre will also need painting before next year's competition, as it appeared quite shabby. The Garda Station looked extremely fresh in red and modern BIM building at the harbour area was admired.

Landscaping:

The grotto on the Eyeries Road was well maintained, as was the graveyard although its gates appeared quite rusty. The memorial to Timothy Charles Harrington was most interesting with its bench and seat area, new stone wall and adjacent steps and slip-way. The Locqmilique Garden looked well on the Glengarriff Road, as did the planted bed with permanent planting at the rock face at this entrance to the town. There is scope for much further landscaping at the Square and car park areas, a simple planted bed of geraniums is simply not enough! Perhaps more landscaping could be considered at the Catholic Church to soften its effect somewhat? There is also scope for landscaping at the paved area to the front of the Old Bakery once this work is complete. The entrance to the Cametringane Hotel appeared quite rough as did the open nearby. This is a category of the competition that you could improve greatly in.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Bird boxes were noted at the new school. Your plans in relation to developing Dinish Island as a wildlife sanctuary are to be highly commended as indeed are your plans to develop walks in the locality.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. A few papers were noted at the harbour area and along Main Street, particularly beside the Irish Permanent and at the fishing net repair area. The litter bins should be repainted before next year's competition.

Tidiness:

A rough yard area on the Eyeries Road should be screened from public view. An area of open space above attractive limestone steps, opposite the harbour area looked quite rough. In terms of street furniture the bollards were in need of a fresh coat of paint. The interesting mural to the rear area of the harbour depicting the town should be restored to its former glory. The Silver Dollar Bar is an attractive shop front which should also be restored. A derelict house by O'Sullivan's Garage created a bad impression as did an outbuilding by Franklin House and a derelict house near to the hostel. Weed control was a problem at the area around the Art School.

Residential Areas:

Quite a lot of construction work was taking place on the Eyeries Road. Do ensure that building materials are removed once work is complete. A charming cottage with cottage garden filled with gladioli etc on the Glengarriff entrance to the town was admired, as was a house with petunias and pansies to its window boxes in the town centre. The attractive stone walling and planting to the entrance area of the Old Presbytery B&B created a good impression on the Glengarriff approach to the town. New houses were noted opposite the school - perhaps further colour could be considered in this location?

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Eyeries Road appeared quite rough. The Glengarriff / Cork Road was in better condition, although its nameplate was quite grubby and should be washed down before next year's competition. Directional signs at the Square area were also very grubby. Do discourage advertising hoardings as those on the Cork approach give the road a rather cluttered appearance.

General Impression:

Castletownbere is a busy and vibrant town which continues to perform well in the competition. It is beginning to attract more and more visitors and new residents. Do ensure that any future development does not detract from its unique charm.