

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletownshend**

Ref: **375**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **224**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	224	221

Overall Developmental Approach:

Castletownshend Community Council have produced a plan of sorts, but have not really indicated any comprehensive suggestions regarding a town plan or programme. You do suggest that you are preparing a map of the village in order to highlight areas of proposed improvement. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, this is essential at this stage in the competition, in order that you can set timeframes against these proposed improvements and in order that adjudicators can assess your progress as years go by. Many thanks for your map which was extremely clear and for your documentation regarding recycling and refuse, which made very interesting reading. Do use the comments made here in order to form the basis of your work programme for next year's competition. This report is intended to be a form of constructive criticism in order that you may see where improvements can be made.

The Built Environment:

The Hall looked well as indeed did the Church of Ireland with its stone walling, tower and steps leading up to the building set in its magnificent grounds. Mary Anne's looked extremely fresh in a strong red colour and O'Donovan's shop was well presented. McCarthy's and the Antique Shop and its garden also looked extremely well.

Landscaping:

The attractive planted area outside the Church of Ireland looked as well as ever as did the magnificent displays of hydrangeas and montbretia to the mall area. You have suggested that you will be providing seasonal planting in order to create colour. The adjudicator would suggest that a strategy of permanent planting and tree planting would be more successful, as this would have year round effect. The planted area and the grassy banks with the monument commemorating the Battle of Castletownsend, at the top of the village looked well. The adjudicator was pleased to note that a seat had been provided at the slipway and pier area, in order that people can enjoy this peaceful area by the waterside. The adjudicator was disappointed to note that the park was quite overgrown and the path and parking area adjacent appeared quite weedy.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was disappointing to note that you had left this part of the application form blank. This is an important aspect of the competition. You should consult with local wildlife experts in order to seek their advice in relation to wildlife habitats that are to be found in your locality. There are still many clues to be found in the Tidy Towns Handbook in order to develop this aspect of your presentation further. It covers such topics as habitat surveys, developing a wildlife management plan, creating a wildlife area and the different forms of wildlife areas.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. Given the size of the village, even one or two papers are all the more evident. A couple of papers were apparent on the Mall, a single paper was seen outside the church, papers and bottles were evident along the main street and also in the vicinity of the houses by the park.

Tidiness:

Do ensure that construction materials are removed once work is complete. A pile of gravel on the mall and concrete blocks abandoned by the gate lodge gave both of these areas a rather untidy aspect. A few weeds were evident to kerbs on the main street and a weedy yard area between the two houses near the pier area should be screened from public view. A broken window was evident to the curving stone wall at the bottom of main street, which should be repaired before next year's competition. The sign at the tennis courts appeared quite flaky and the back - board to the basketball nets were in need of some attention.

Residential Areas:

Individual houses looked well, such as the Rocket, the centrally located creeper - clad house on the mall and the Sundial. The cottages in stone looked well leading up to the Church of Ireland. There are two major new housing schemes in the village. The Lawns seem reasonably subtle and landscaping was evident in this location along with the use of stone in their construction. Castle Garden houses are accessed by an entrance area that breaks the well maintained street line in that location. Has this work been completed? Perhaps the entrance can be narrowed or gates provided in order to reinforce the lost line? Some further landscaping would give the appearance of a courtyard to this development. A charming house with bay fronted diamond paned windows on Main Street was admired for its attractive planting outside including fuchsia. The stone house on the mall sported some attractive lavender and montbretia planting to its front area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Mall looked extremely well with its magnificent displays of montbretia, lavender and hydrangeas which, despite not having come into full bloom, looked good on the day. The Skibbereen Road is an attractive entrance to the village, with its magnificent displays of montbretia to the roadsides. Presumably a new concrete block entrance wall in this locality will be rendered and painted in time? The new information board at the entrance to the village was admired. Unfortunately, the Tragumna

Road was quite overgrown and the village nameplate was obscured by overgrowth in this locality.

General Impression:

Castletownsend is a most attractive and unusual village which has the potential to do extremely well in the competition - as mentioned by last year's adjudicator. Do ensure that you formulate a three or five year work programme before next year's competition as this is essential at this stage in your development.