

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castleisland**

Ref: **214**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **232**

Category: **C**

Date: **11/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	29	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	232	232

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your submission would suggest you are an all year round active committee and your five year plan outlines your intentions for the coming years. You have an enormous amount of area to cover relevant to your population and the great plethora of large buildings and open spaces are demanding on you energy. You have done well in recent years and your ability to work in close association with so many relevant agencies is commendable. Let it be said also that you have many problems, many going back several years and still unresolved. You have sent us a well illustrated map which made it easy for this adjudicator to find the various areas of progress. Your challenge is to bring the community with you and seek remedies for your long-standing black spots.

The Built Environment:

You have some fine period buildings in and around the town that have great architectural features and mostly well presented. You are also experiencing the building boom and a great deal of development was observed on adjudication day. These developments are enhancing the appearance of the town and also, in many cases, removing previously poorly presented spaces from view. However, it is the core part of the town and in particular the main street that commands most attention. The work of previous years continues to enhance and one can now see the great value of tree planting and the positive results of investing in proper infrastructure. You still have a great amount of dereliction, even in prime sites and these will need to be tackled if you are to progress. Some buildings in main street have also gone shabby: e.g., Mc Carthy's Pub sign needs attention.

The improvement in Church St. is acknowledged. Of particular interest were Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, Coláiste Phobail, the VW garage, The Treasure Chest, Bank of Ireland, Dave Costello, and others too numerous to mention.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is one of your strong points and street tubs were being put out on adjudication day. The tree planting is impressive and will further enhance with the passing of time. There is a lovely nest of oak trees on the river bank at Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál: a great illustration of tree planting investment. Could similar trees be planted inside the attractive new stone wall along New St.?, such a development would be a great investment in the future. Why are the trees doing so poorly in the car park. It is encouraging to learn of the landscaping action of so many residents in the various estates. Developers of new buildings should be encouraged to landscape well as part of all developments: indeed it should be built into the planning process. Well done to all the individual traders and householders for a colourful display of window boxes and hanging baskets.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river Maine offers you unlimited scope for advancement in this category. Some towns, e.g., Killarney, have invested in illustrated plaques as part of their river walk. People are interested in wildlife but sometimes fearful of their lack of knowledge. This section offers scope for popularising wildlife and making our river walks more interesting. Well done on your work with the mallard.

Litter Control:

You have fallen back on litter control and many areas around town have problems. There is a litter trap at entrance to St., Stephen's Cemetery and this area is very untidy. We appreciate the vast area under adjudication but litter remains a critical factor in Tidy Towns. This adjudicator can recall special FÁS schemes controlling litter on Sundays in Castleisland: has this finished.?

Tidiness:

Your problems here are well aired in previous reports and the great numbers of unoccupied premises, closed commercial operations, poor road surface, badly presented open spaces and dereliction all combine to hold your mark down in this category. We realise from your entry that some owners are not living locally and others are uncooperative.

Residential Areas:

Well done to all the residents who play an active part in your endeavours. Estates are well presented and the new houses at New Road should be canvassed to play an active role in your programme. In general this is one of your strong points and collective and individual effort is obvious throughout.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Limerick approach is still marred by the former Jet garage and others also. The Tralee road is good and has some attractive displays of colour. The condition of The Snug is an eyesore and the perennial untidy corner is still a problem on this prominent entrance to the town. I like the Con Houlihan sculpture and how recognizable he is. This is a sweet development and will be applauded by all. As mentioned in previous reports back and side lanes now form part of core Tidy Towns and should receive appropriate attention. Well done to the National Graves Association for the clean-up of the small 1916 monument at Castle View. The New Road needs a street sign.

General Impression:

You have maintained your standard and the town looked well on election day. The future of the town and its environs is positive and the great deal of developments speaks well for the fabric and economic welfare of the town. It strikes me you need new additional membership for your efforts and you should approach new residents in particular for assistance. Tidy Towns is everybody's business and can be very effective as a movement for further progress. We wish you well in the future.