

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlerea**

Ref: **26**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **207**

Category: **D**

Date: **18/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	35
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	22
Litter Control	40	25	27
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	4	6
TOTAL MARK	300	207	213

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your completed entry form, maps, photos and report on work carried out in 2003 - 2004. These items were most useful to the adjudicator. We note again that you did not include a detailed work programme covering the next three to five years, consequently I cannot award any additional marks in this category this year. Do submit one; as previously indicated it is difficult to progress in the competition without it. As your report on works carried out 2003 - 2004 outlines, much has been achieved this year and these achievements have not gone unnoticed, so well done to one and all. However, I would sound a word of caution in particular in the areas of litter control and tidiness which did not reflect last year's marks and unfortunately have impacted on your overall score as they detracted from the general impression given on adjudication day. The implementation of a 3 or 5 year work plan would assist you in drawing up a strategy to tackle this issue over the coming years.

The Built Environment:

I concur with the previous adjudicator that the town has a fine stock of wonderful buildings. It is therefore a pity that too many of these are in need of simple painting and, in other cases, more serious refurbishment. Many of the public buildings were, however, presented to a high standard such as the Community School, Church, National School at Square, the Square, and Bank. The taking over of the Holy Trinity Church by Castlerea Community to convert it into the Castlerea Arts and Heritage Centre is to be welcomed. The bridge near the swimming pool has decorative railings

but these require painting. The Mill located adjacent to the bridge at the other end of the town could be greatly improved by boarding up the windows and painting brightly. There are other buildings too which should be identified by the committee and this is why your plan is important as you need to set realistic targets and a workplan.

Landscaping:

There is much work being carried out the landscaping front. The flower bed and landscaping on corner at Community School was admired, as was the landscaping and paving at Williamstown junction of the school grounds. The flower bed and Cart before the bridge on Williamstown approach is a nice feature, and the new housing estate are putting in an effort. The trees and shrubbery at the Business Park are maturing nicely but could do with more attention, as could the pavements on route to the business park which detracted from the good work done elsewhere. The 3 new seats along the riverside walk were noted as were the trees planted for national tree week.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Town Park is one of Castlerea's greatest assets. The sign at the entrance identifying it is tatty and in need of replacing. This facility is getting considerable use as is the riverside walk, however it was a great pity to see rubbish in the river. I noted no bins in the section I walked. The entrance sign to the Wildlife Sanctuary also need replacing. Has there been a survey of the birds, flora fauna, and trees of the demesne been undertaken, because additional marks are available if this was submitted? I also recommend you get the schools involved in a wildlife project, with this wonderful natural wildlife amenity on their doorstep.

Litter Control:

Unfortunately litter management was not as good this year. There was quite a lot of litter on the streets. The area surrounding the recycling facility in the Super Valu car-park was untidy and there was litter in this area and the car-park in general. I would suggest contacting other committees that you may be aware of that have implemented good long term litter strategies in conjunction with the local authority, local businesses, schools etc. as there is a potential that this category will drag down your overall score. The importance of planning your future work and letting the adjudicator know next year how you intend to proceed would be of great assistance. Litter is, unfortunately, a big problem in every town in Ireland, but with good planning and co-operation from the relevant bodies, big improvements could be made in this category over the coming years.

Tidiness:

The on-going work re the new sewerage scheme, together with the many new housing development under construction do not lend themselves to creating a tidy appearance at present, but they are essential work and the benefits will pertain in the long-run. So I will leave the mark as is until this essential work is completed.

Residential Areas:

There are many residential properties which are presented to a high standard while others are in need to improvement. Continue to encourage residents to look after their properties. There are many new housing developments under construction, so be sure to get these residents association on board.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

With the sewerage scheme works ongoing many of your streets are dug up at present but when resurfaced will greatly enhance the town. I can therefore see the town progressing well in this area over the coming years. The road to the jail is particularly nice and well landscaped, but be mindful of

grass and weeds at base of walls and kerbs.

General Impression:

Castlerea is a busy town on the N60, it has many wonderful buildings, and the Town Park and riverside walk are valuable assets. It is currently undergoing a lot of construction but it is a town with great potential. Be patient and continue your good work and you will reap the reward of your efforts. We look forward to many repeat visits and tracking your progress. Keep up the good work.