

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletown Geoghegan**

Ref: **156**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **186**

Category: **A**

Date: **05/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	186	185

Overall Developmental Approach:

Interest is raised on the approach to Castletowngehegan from the Loughnavalley Road by the church spire which protrudes above a canopy of mature trees. Castletown Geoghegan is an attractive linear village with a number of interesting features. It is recommended that a 3 to 5 year plan be put in place to help focus on an evolving improvements in its presentation.

The Built Environment:

The Church and parish house are the most striking buildings in the village and both are beautifully maintained and presented. There are extensive lawns and shrubberies. The church roof has been recently replaced and overall looks fine. St. Michaels National School for Boys and Girls building looks clean and tidy but the exterior wall needs painting, and the car park surface needs attention. Claffeys Pub looks well, although the traffic bollards could be freshened with painting. The community Centre is cleanly presented with colourful window boxes and two pots of flowers. The Post Office looks tidy and Drakes Inn interestingly displayed with old farm machinery. The flower shop at the end of the main street presents a spectacular bank of colour. The Garda Station is clean and tidy and the Health Board premises well presented. Part of the wall near Claffeys Pub needs restoration.

Landscaping:

The central planter outside Caffreys pub looked very well. Entrances to the village and in particular the flower bed on the Mullingar Road are to be commended. Attention is required at the village pump feature: the pump needs painting; the plant replacing, and restoration of the ground surface. The small car park feature is attractively presented, with maturing trees and recycling bins located here. A pity to see it used as a storage area for road surfacing materials.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Castletown Geoghegan has outstanding potential in its wildlife and natural amenity resource. The river course offers opportunity for wet land wildlife development and the old church and its graveyard provide natural wildlife habitat within the village. The forest and hedgerows surrounding the village provide a thriving wildlife in the surrounding area and much could be done to exploit its value.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good with little evidence of a problem in this area.

Tidiness:

Apart from the area surrounding the telephone kiosk and water pump, there were good levels of tidiness noted. Beside the car park was a 'closed' premises and untidy yard. The planter below the Woodside Furniture sign is in need of maintenance. There were a couple of instances of dilapidation noted.

Residential Areas:

From the Castletown Geoghan sign post on the Loughnavalley there is a small well maintained housing estate to the left and between it and the road is a laurel hedge. The housing estate on the Tullamore Road is well presented with trimmed lawn. Two of the new trees were vandalised, but for the most part this area looks fine. Attractive run of small houses on Ballinagore road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Loughnavalley road approach is dressed with mature hedge rows. Verges are well maintained, with footpaths from the 30mph sign. The extensive graveyard is well maintained. Approach walls are in good condition and look well. The approach to the village from the school side is quite nice with a combination of stone wall, planters of flowers and hedge row. The footpath from the school to the village is well maintained. The approach from the Tullamore side features the Castletown sign in an overgrown verge. Approach from Dysart side looks very well with cut verges and stone walls. Beautiful array of trees to left with new plantation to right with timber fencing. Village sign sits nicely in plinth.

General Impression:

Castletown Geoghegan is a village with excellent potential. The prospect of the delayed sewage scheme being installed is an impediment to the work of the committee. At the same time it presents a good opportunity to take stock and plan for the future.