

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlebridge**

Ref: **496**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **197**

Category: **C**

Date: **17/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	
The Built Environment	40	26	
Landscaping	40	25	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	
Litter Control	40	30	
Tidiness	20	13	
Residential Areas	30	23	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	
General Impression	10	7	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>197</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

We welcome Castlebridge to the Tidy Towns Competition and wish them every success in it. Thank you indeed for all the information and for the map and plans sent with the entry form which was most useful on adjudication day. You have clearly identified potential development areas and this is an excellent start. In this connection it is gratifying to see that you will have the assistance of Wexford County Council, FAS, and indeed many other organisations, in carrying out these plans. The advice is, however, that you do not try to achieve everything in the first year. The plan extends to 2006 so try to identify what you can do over the remaining three years on a year to year basis within your physical and financial resources. By doing this you are also supplying yourselves with a yardstick by which you can measure how successful or otherwise you are being. Trying to do everything in one year can sometimes lead to frustration. Your promotional leaflets are excellent.

### The Built Environment:

Castlebridge is very fortunate in having a number of substantial buildings such as the Church, School, the Old Mill, the Health Centre and Community Hall. On adjudication day, the Church looked very nice and is being well maintained. The outside of the School and the nearby Garda building are badly in need of repainting. While the Old Mill has been redeveloped as a Craft Centre the Mill Wheel does however look very shabby. This is a pity because, with some restoration and painting, it could become a major feature in the village and a tourist attraction. Castlebridge House is a fine building and the conservatory, if restored, could also become a very nice feature. There is a

substantial amount of work to be done under this heading but in time it can all be achieved.

### **Landscaping:**

The 1798 Peace Garden indeed looks very nice. In hot weather, however, attention should be given to watering as, on adjudication day, it appears that some of the plants were in danger of dying. The nearby stream is also a lovely feature. Landscaping throughout the village, where presented, is indeed very pleasant and particularly admired was that on the approach road from Wexford. Part of your planning should be to identify areas for further landscaping and for the planting of trees and shrubs which will give some colour on an all year round basis. Perhaps this too is an area where Wexford County Council could be of assistance to you as they generally have someone on staff who is qualified in this respect. Tubs of flowers, window boxes and containerised planting, where presented, also looked very nice and created a nice atmosphere throughout the village.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your comments under this heading have been noted and you are indeed again embarking on the right course of action by consulting with Wexford County Council. Your Peace Garden and its accompanying stream will be an ideal place to initially supply nesting boxes and feeding tables for birds and would again prove to be a lovely attraction right in the centre of the village. Perhaps this is something which your school children could take on.

### **Litter Control:**

Castlebridge was practically litter free on adjudication day and great credit is due to all concerned for this achievement. This is a very important aspect of the competition and needs constant monitoring.

### **Tidiness:**

In spite of all the building which is going on at the moment, the village was presented in a neat and tidy manner and again reflects the interest which your residents have in their environment which is to be lauded.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are many new housing estates in the village but the combination of old and new make a nice contrast. All the housing estates were visited and are being well maintained. Oak Tree Heights and its open spaces and walls was much admired. Many individual houses had lovely gardens in full bloom which created a lovely atmosphere around the village and all concerned are to be congratulated on this. In a small centre this type of efforts is to be encouraged. You cannot succeed without it. Part of your planning should be to form Residents Associations in each area and to invite them to join your committee.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Approach roads in general particularly from Wexford, from Enniscorthy and Courtown were well presented with evidence of mowing to be seen on adjudication day. Adjudication normally takes place either between the speed limit signs or the village nameplate signs, whichever you opt for. Verges should be mowed or strimmed as appropriated from there on in but bearing in mind the advice given in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding the preservation of wild flowers and wildlife habitat. The condition of approach roads is very important as it tends to set the tone for the rest of the village. Road surfaces are quite good and footpaths are being well maintained. Your plans to erect stone village signs over the next two years has been noted. This has proved to be very attractive in other centres.

## **General Impression:**

Since a lot of your planning is at the discussion stage the Adjudicator hopes that the above few comments will be of assistance to you. Success in the competition comes from careful planning and attention to detail. It does not come overnight and you will indeed be better off to plan to do so much each year with a final objective to be set, say, in terms of marking, for the year 2006. Another centre has done this by way of identifying on a year to year basis what percentages of the marking they will endeavour to receive under each heading. Perhaps you might consider the same. Castlebridge has a lot going for it and should look particularly nice when all the present building activities have ceased. Do not however lose sight of the fact that maintenance of what you already have is also of the greatest importance. It is in fact the back bone of the competition. The Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Castlebridge again next year to see what further progress has been made