

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlelyons-Bridesbridge**

Ref: **166**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **242**

Category: **B**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	40
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	33	34
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	7	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>239</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

We enjoyed reading your comprehensive submission complete with copy of your Annual Yearbook for 2004. Few communities of your size can boast of such a publication and we commend all concerned with its success. The sketch map was most useful in identifying work on hand and projects planned. Your ability to fundraise and harbour support from so many agencies reflects well on community cooperation. There is healthy evidence of previous developments and these will continue to flourish. Your area under adjudication spans two villages which is quite extensive. We logged into your web site but failed to find The Conservation Plan and village design statement. We also notice the abbey is listed as a Franciscan Abbey on your site.

### The Built Environment:

You have all the ingredients of a large village, complete with attractive central abbey, church and school etc. The illustration of the abbey is interesting and it was well presented. The cloister grassed area should be cut and better maintained and we suggest you remove the open blue litter barrel. Public buildings looked well and the church had some lovely landscaping in the grounds. Well done on the standard of the Community Centre and the national school. You have many large old stone buildings that are now deteriorating and will need attention for safety and improved presentation. However, we acknowledge their historic importance and their links with 19th century industrial archaeology. The building opposite Barrys needs cleaning. We welcome the housing infill within the village and would prefer this policy to creating new estates. The derelict house at the Stables Cross

road is very poor and presents a bad image at this prominent site.

### **Landscaping:**

As mentioned much of previous years landscaping continues to enhance and the benefit of tree planting continues to highlight the value of such development. The landscaping development at the river bridge is excellent and proved an ideal picnic stop for this adjudicator. This site offers a great view of the multi arched bridge which was not visible until now. The garden centre entrance is excellent and projects a good image for the village. You still have adequate space for more tree planting on the Main Street and you should consider this as a project for 2006. The individual effort by many commercial operators is praiseworthy and the village had a high degree of colour in evidence on adjudication day. The Pitch and Putt course was excellently presented but the club accommodation has gone shabby.

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

Well done on the work carried out under section. We commend you for the informative display board at the picnic site near the bridge. You have numerous areas suitable for raising your marks in this section and we acknowledge your work with next boxes etc. You are endowed with an attractive river and you might consider a river walk in the future.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control is only fair and needs more attention. The litter at the base of the Bring Bank is regrettable and we wonder if it is really necessary to have the large skip in this location. You have a nasty litter black spot in the enclosed area beside the twin limestone field.

### **Tidiness:**

Your problems here relate to a number of unattended open spaces, some dereliction, unoccupied houses, broken walls and uncared for margins. We accept that many of these problems are beyond the scope of a voluntary movement but your influence as a Tidy Towns Committee is important to lever support from those responsible. The building rubble outside the industry building is unsightly and should be removed.

### **Residential Areas:**

The standard of houses is good and most of them have been well presented. The housing estate at Ardán Ceannt is very well presented with some excellent individual effort here. The concrete post and rail fence leading up to Ardán Ceannt should be planted to soften the concrete image. Church Lane housing estate is attractive but the road up to it is poor. Well done on the well presented green areas. The Forge mural needs refurbishment. We feel the Coop Creamery is poor and could be much improved with better road surfacing and access. This large complex is a busy part of the commercial life of the village and consequently attracts a lot of attention.

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

We liked the bilingual street signs and commend you on this policy. The text on the plaque for the castle needs improvement and you might tackle this for next year. We visited the twin limekiln which is the first of its kind encountered by this adjudicator. We urge you to highlight this feature and instigate a clean up of the site. An appropriate bilingual sign and information plaque would be of great interest to visitors and help to focus attention on the history and use of such buildings. We found the approach road from Abbey Lane quite overgrown and in need of a clean up.

## **General Impression:**

Both villages looked well on adjudication day. You have worked hard on raising your standards and your vision for an improved environment is well illustrated in your report. We now urge you re visit some of the problem areas and seek improved cooperation from some residents and land owners.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

The combination of the two villages and the connecting corridor presents a very attractive picture. The Friary at one end is a particularly interesting feature and the bridge picnic area forms a delightful resting place at the other end. More frequent attention to litter control in the friary area would be welcome. The stonewall features through Castlelyons characterise the village and greater emphasis on the presentation of these – particularly the stone buildings behind Kearney Brothers would form interesting components of the village heritage. The area opposite Glanbia is not very attractive with the array of Ragwort and if agreement could be reached to plant trees along this stretch it would be a major improvement. The roadside above the school seems to be in turmoil at present. The skip area appears cleaner than experienced at the first adjudication. Tarmacadamming of roads at the Bridesbridge area adds well to the appearance. Hopefully removing overhead cables is on the agenda. The many colourful plant filled containers through the streets and at the carpark look well – although containers of this size do need some plants with height and those with Hydrangea prove this.