

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletownroche**

Ref: **328**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **256**

Category: **B**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	256	253

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission including sketch and outline of your work programme. Castletownroche looked well on a beautiful June adjudication day. Indeed many people were hard at work attending to various parts of the village and the planting at the grotto junction was receiving evening watering. Consequently there was great colour in and around the village and much evidence also of new housing development, suggesting an increase in population for the village and the implications of same should be of special interest to your committee. Your projections for 2006 will need to be firmed up as many of them require developments by agencies other than your committee.

The Built Environment:

We wonder if you have considered painting the catholic church as mentioned in last year's report. As mentioned this is a fine building and dominates this end of the village. We feel the gates of the national school need painting and have deteriorated since last year: an evening's meitheal would rectify their appearance. The Garda station looked well on this important approach. Shopfronts mentioned last year looked well again this year and some have received fresh painting. The take-away fast food outlet sign is really disappointing and the colour of this building is inappropriate on this important location. The derelict house opposite Shinnick Park needs attention: in the short term it needs a clean-up. The restored mill continues to look well and we congratulate on your ability to attract commercial interests for its usage. As the gate was closed during an evening adjudication it was not possible to view the forecourt area in detail, but this will be done during the

second adjudication.

Landscaping:

Again you have scored well in this section and the village was a blaze of colour on adjudication day. There is great evidence of community and individual effort in all parts of the village and the approach roads are also colourful: the new beds at the Grotto junction are excellent. Planting from previous years continues to enhance and illustrates the merits of sustained development. Grass cutting throughout is good and the vast amount of grass cutting fronting the mill is demanding, but you have coped well. New housing estates and the village infill will also need appropriate landscaping. The landscaping at Hunter Park is superb and offers a great introduction to the village from this approach.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We commend you on your work in this section and a plethora of wildlife was evident during adjudication along the riverbank. You should commission a display board that would reflect the local wildlife and erect it on an appropriate location near the river. This would stimulate further interest and lead to further activity. You have potential to raise your marks in this section. You might also consider publishing an information leaflet that would act as a village trail. This could give information on the many historic buildings of the village and environs, to include the mill and castle.

Litter Control:

We note with interest the new fixed wheelie bins erected by Cork Co. Council. Well done on a fine performance of litter control, reflecting great commitment from residents and visitors alike. The freshly painted street furniture is attractive and we liked the churns at the old creamery.

Tidiness:

You have some problems in this section and some of last years comments have not been rectified. Some unattended open spaces need improvement and some farm gates would benefit from painting. We acknowledge the infill developments at The Hill and these will improve when landscaped. We commend you on your recycling efforts and these units are now an important part of the adjudication system, offering a new category prize for the best Bring Bank in each region for 2005 onwards.

Residential Areas:

The new housing estate at Caisleán and Easaig offers potential for improved markings in this section. We hope next year will witness appropriate landscaping on this important approach. Well done on the infill development at The Hill, the absence of pvc windows and doors and also the stone work at the rear of this development. When complete it will add to the appearance of the whole Shinnock Park area. We reiterate the need for some boundary wall attention at Hunter Park. We are glad to learn that the castle is now open during limited periods and also signposted as suggested in the second adjudication last year.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

We find it difficult to be critical on the appearance of approach roads and the tree planting is excellent and often richly embellished with attractive colourful flower displays. The two principal approaches are really well presented.

General Impression:

An other fine display by Castletownroche. Your are now at a high level in the competition and marks will be hard earned from now on. Your consistency in keeping an active community committed is praiseworthy and augurs well for continued success. You have much to be proud of and your efforts should now be directed towards tackling some of the problem areas outlined in this and previous reports. We wish you well.

Second Round Adjudication:

The picturesque nature of the village is beautiful and the improvement works over the years have done much to enhance the village and surrounds without hindering the main characteristics – well done for this. New housing developments need to be blended and integrated well and hopefully when the Caislean na Easaig site is complete this will be the case. The mill area is superb and the non-fussy style is appreciated. The many landscaped areas at the approaches to the village have been well thought out and these together with An tSli Gearr and Hunter Park road frontage add greatly to the village. The graveyard above the village is very well cared for and great care and attention has been given to the pathways and entrance and also to the T.P Keenan grave.. Progress is being made with the difficult buildings