

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletownbere**

Ref: **98**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **214**

Category: **C**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	26	22
Tidiness	20	12	9
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	214	206

Overall Developmental Approach:

Castletownbere is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included your planned work programme as well as details of objectives achieved for 2005. It is good to note that you have the sponsorship of Supervalu and that you also get local community support via a church gate collection. Hopefully your liaison with Berra Tourism will bring about the desired result of ducting overhead service cables. We note work accomplished for the town by FAS workers. Well done on the new 'Call Of The Sea' heritage centre, you rightly identify marine tourism as a growing industry and it is appropriate that Ireland's second largest fishing port should interpret this heritage. Your method of communication with the broader community via the use of local media and posters as well as mass announcements are appropriate. Your stated objectives are clear and realistic and we look forward to charting your progress in achieving them over the next four years.

The Built Environment:

Again this year the adjudicator (a different one from last year) was impressed by the standard of presentation of the 'Call of the Sea Visitor Centre'. The built environment of the town consists mostly of handsome three storey buildings, many featuring strong colours to making an attractive colour scheme. A number of gable walls featured murals which is a little unusual and most attractive. The square with the cross monument could be developed further for visual and recreational amenity; perhaps a marine theme would be appropriate or a water feature? The

church is quite magnificent on its elevated site overlooking the streets of Castletownbere. Premises which looked well include Supervalu, O'Sheas Bar, J. Dwyer, the Berehaven Credit Union and Twomeys Ivy Bar to name but a few. The canopy at Wiseman's Drapery looks dreadful and should be replaced with the canvas, roller type, retractable canopy type if one is necessary. St. Josephs Hospital and its grounds were nicely landscaped and work in progress was noted here.

Landscaping:

The Harrington Memorial looked splendid, well done to those responsible. Planting inside the wire and post fencing of the sports grounds looks well, we note continuous work in progress here, perhaps now the car park will be resurfaced and lined and a namesign will feature at the entrance. The green amenity area on Dininish Island which affords a view of the waterfront and its wildlife inhabitants is a fine amenity, commercial interests on the island should respond by landscaping their own grounds or at least upgrading their boundaries by appropriate enclosure or planting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We look forward to the completion of the proposed wildlife survey of Dininish Island by students of the local community school, this can only enhance the wildlife amenity status of Castletownbere; hopefully you will be successful in achieving a grant for wildlife interpretive panels. Both the strand and the harbour area were very clean this year, well done on this fine achievement. A new children's play area beside the Garda station is well surfaced and an attractive development for the streetscape. We look forward to the completion of signposted walks.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on the new litter signs, hopefully they will be effective. We note from your submission that weekly collections are in place during the summer and that you have the help of a FAS worker. Litter control was good in Castletownbere on adjudication day with just one exception, a container of sorts was located outside the unidentified premises which adjoins the Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation Ltd. which was overflowing with plastic bottles and other litter. The roadside to the Net Repair and Salting Area was in need of a good sweeping and the the Keep The Roadway Clear sign needed attention.

Tidiness:

Well done on the provision of the civic amenity site located on the Eyeries Road. Work in progress on a new building site was noted on the latter road which created an appearance of untidiness however this no doubt is temporary and the problem will disappear upon completion of works. Some stretches of footpath and kerbs together with side areas were weedy although we note from your submission that kerbs had been cleared of weed and grass earlier this year.

Residential Areas:

Gardens to dwellings on the northern entrance were especially admired, particularly those with out-crops of bare rock which looked quite dramatic. The brick faced cottages located across from the hospital are charming. Bungalows and gardens on the Dunboyne Castle Road were also admired, particularly in relation to the presentation of boundary walls, however one or two still require treatment. Castle Heights is an attractive development, its stone wall to the roadside looks well. The carved timber nameplates are a nice touch. The majority of residential properties are presented to a high standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The nameplate on the northern approach road is in need of refurbishment and it is suggested that it be relocated out further as the town appears to have expanded since it was put in place. The quality of footpaths into the town centre was quite good as were footpaths in the centre itself and stone walls. The harbour area as noted previously is neat and the public toilet enjoyed good maintenance both inside and out, flower displays here looked well. Hopefully the overhead service cables will be ducted in the not too distant future to eliminate the unsightly wirescape in the centre. A minor approach road was overgrown (the road to the stone circle). All approach roads were litter free, well done. We wish you well with your objective for orderly parking and traffic control and the development of an off-street car park.

General Impression:

Castletownbere is an attractive town in an idyllic setting and is being maintained to a high standard by its community, well done to all involved.

Second Round Adjudication: