

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletownsend**

Ref: **676**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **224**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	
The Built Environment	40	34	
Landscaping	40	29	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	
Litter Control	40	33	
Tidiness	20	12	
Residential Areas	30	26	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	224	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Castletownshend is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission; no plan or plan summary was included this year, although one was referred to in last year's report. As reported last year, it is difficult to make substantial progress in the competition without a clear work programme. The information board on the village is worthwhile and helpful. Castletownshend village has an unusual streetscape with a dramatic rise and fall to the quayside; the 'interruption' at the crossroads by two semi-mature trees in the centre of the street is unusual. The village has some fine buildings and a commemorative plaque for the Battle of Castlehaven. We note from your submission your hosting of a Maritime Festival in July. We wish you well in future funding for projects and again urge you to prepare a plan and submit it with next year's application.

The Built Environment:

The main features of Castletownshend are attractive high stone walls leading one into the village centre, handsome buildings forming the Main Street, the two semi-mature trees at the crossroads, the pier and surrounding area together with the church and castle. Shopfronts, pubs and restaurants are well presented and Gallaghers Bar and Restaurant is being considered for a shopfront award. O'Donovans shop is simple in its presentation but attractive nonetheless and Lil McCarthy's was admired for its colour as was the large white premises with flower boxes on each of its ten window cills. Mary Anne's Bar and Restaurant was beautifully painted also.

Landscaping:

Reference has already been made to the flower displays on the large white building near the quayside; stunning flower displays were also noted at the end of the cul-de-sac. Tennis courts together with the playgrounds were neatly presented and the basketball equipment here appears to have been painted since last year's report was written up. Well done on the sponsoring of a FAS worker to maintain the town park and litter control in the village also. Look for opportunities to extend your tree planting programme and choose native trees over exotics as these encourage valuable wildlife habitats.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Swans at the foreshore area looked quite at home in their environment, no doubt due in no small measure to a feeding regime by residents. The pier / quay was neatly presented as was the slipway and the foreshore area was very clean. We wish you well with your plans to have the pier resurfaced. Outbreaks of wildflower were noted in verges and at a number of locations around the village, these included wild rose and montebretia, both of which were a visual treat. A wildlife survey should be undertaken and habitats identified so that protective measures can be put in place in the event of the future development of Castletownshend. Your local authority wildlife officer may be of help in this regard.

Litter Control:

Litter control appears to be improved over last year, well done. The FAS worker is obviously effective in the task. This year's adjudicator notes a reference last year to documentation regarding recycling and refuse. This was not resubmitted this year and the facility has not been noted during adjudication; perhaps the appropriate information will be included in next year's submission.

Tidiness:

The village was tidy overall however weedy kerbs were a problem together with a few side and back areas. Whilst the pier itself was tidy its surface suggested neglect and featured a run-down appearance which of course will be resolved upon resurfacing. Your liaison with residents regarding maintaining their own areas and the village in a tidy manner has been successful. If you engage in activities such as involvement in An Taisc's National Spring Clean Week you could include this information in next year's submission as it can help you to progress further in the competition.

Residential Areas:

The small residential development near the tennis courts was neatly presented at the time of adjudication and the Castle Garden residential development appeared to be beautifully landscaped (what could be seen of it from the public road.) The Lawn is another new development with some attractive features including the stone work. The terrace of dwellings which are presented in a neutral colour might consider featuring a coordinated colour scheme. Again this year Sundial House was admired and of course the 'Fuschia' premises is aptly named as the fuschia bushes here were in full flower. A large double fronted residential property in georgian style was admired and a house near the junction with Main Street featured monte bretia.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Tragumna Road was nicely presented in respect of grass verges, hedgerow, mature trees and nameplate. The entrance from the Skibbereen Road looked well also with its high stone walls lining the road to the village centre. The ugly wirescape in the main street spoils an otherwise excellent view of the countryside beyond the village. Road and footpath surfaces were generally good but less so in the centre than on the periphery. A water-pump set in the stone wall enjoyed an excellent

presentation and one on the footpath was noted also. The old style telephone kiosk is a nice touch. Hopefully the road to the cul-de-sac which is uneven will be resurfaced, the high stone walls here are a nice feature.

General Impression:

Castletownshend is a beautiful village with fine amenities and attractive features to its streetscape. The standard of maintenance achieved this year is excellent.

Second Round Adjudication:

Castletownshend is a unique village with great character and charm. Any developments within the village must respect carefully this character. The street side houses look very well and the attractive plantings by the walls of houses makes a delightful picture. Hopefully the overhead cables can be placed underground at some stage and the road surfaces – which are very bumpy, will be resolved with resurfacing. The harbour area with newly concreted surface looks very well. The Church of Ireland and the grounds are beautifully kept and the stepped approach is very picturesque. The village is very clean with very good litter control in place. The old telephone kiosk should be retained carefully as this is now an obsolete model.