

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castleisland**

Ref: **105**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **232**

Category: **C**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	232	232

Overall Developmental Approach:

The plan and work achieved to date suggests that there is great enthusiasm and effort available in Castleisland. Starting from a point only a few years ago where there was so much work to be done - so many derelict and dilapidated premises to contend with. Progress has been made. It is clear to see that the plans are working out and the problem buildings are diminishing. There is great hope for future developments. For some unknown reason there appears to be more problem buildings in Castleisland than in many other similar sized towns.

The Built Environment:

The main street looks very well. The absence of overhead cables is a great advantage and the street lamps look especially well. The hanging baskets in pairs look very bright and cheerful and give a good sparkle to the street. The tree planting has also enhanced the streetscape greatly. There are many well-painted premises now in the main street and the few that need attention are more noticeable. Protruding signs are not the most desirable. There is a vast array of building types in the town - to take one example - in the area of Barrack Street there are restored stone buildings, single storied terraced houses (all nicely painted) and modern town style houses. Add to this the industrial buildings. The building at the Rioc is very substantial and a great asset for the town - the road to this hopefully will be surfaced soon making it more pleasant to access. The fact that many of the derelict buildings are being used for further building schemes is a great idea - not only solving the

problem but utilizing the buildings in a positive way. There are many of these buildings and this process will take some time to complete. The many corrugated sheds seen through various places hopefully will also disappear with time. New building work is in progress in many places. Walsh's, McElligott's and the Aetna buildings on the Tralee Road and Moran's on Limerick Road all make an impact.

Landscaping:

The hanging baskets in the main street as mentioned, are a very good addition and look very well. Many of the housing estates have been well planted with trees and grassed areas are being cared for. The contribution each individual homeowner makes is key to the overall appearance of the town. On the new road – it would be great if agreement was reached to plant trees on the inside of the stonewall. Tree plantings of the past are maturing well and make a good difference. The line of Poplar trees on the Tralee road looks very well and gives a nice approach to the town. The two large copper beech trees at the entrance to St John's Estate are a lovely sight and prove how valuable even one or two large can be in a town

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside walks are a very pleasant feature and it is great to be able to walk from one end of the town to the other -to or from the church without walking by the streets. These riverside walks could be important as wildlife observation points. Display boards featuring the type of wildlife likely to be seen would be a useful asset. School projects could be developed for further analysis of the riverside wildlife.

Litter Control:

There was a considerable amount of litter noted in the town, which was a little disappointing. Litter was noted at the main central point of the village and along footpaths at various places. The carpark at the back of the carpet store at the town centre was much littered and also the area by the St. Stephens's burial grounds. Note was made of this problem in last years report and some remedy needs to be found.

Tidiness:

Because of the derelict buildings, the carpark at the back of the carpet store, the areas surrounding the petrol station at the village centre and the many unpainted corrugated buildings it is difficult to score well in this category at present. It is well acknowledged that there is a vast change occurring in the town and this will have very positive results.

Residential Areas:

A large number of residential housing estates were visited and there appears to be a very good standard of care and attention to houses and gardens. Tree planting and grass care are the two most important elements in housing estate open space. The entrance approach and large greens inside are the key places to develop in a housing estate. The Desmond Estate looked very well with a good level of well-painted houses. St. Stephens Park, St. Johns Park, and Cahereens West also looked very well. The new town houses at the start of Pound Road looked well but attention to the long grass at the side of these is needed.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The large number of approach roads results in considerable traffic passing through the town. The Faranfore approach is well treated with well-marked roads, good surface and attractive gardens along the way. The Tralee road as mentioned – has very good tree planting along the outer areas.

Closer to the town on the Tralee road where kerbing has taken place there is need to fix where the kerbs meet the roadside and the surface is very rough.

General Impression:

Improvements are occurring. It is wise to focus on each part in turn and direct efforts on that focus. Because there are so many buildings to be remedied – patience is needed. A lot of progress has been made and the corner has been turned now.

Second Round Adjudication:

The shops and buildings of the town of Castleisland looked reasonably well cared for on Second Adjudication Day. The wide main street sported attractive trees marching down its long centre median, and a great deal of construction work was evident on the day. Don't forget gable walls along the main streets when considering overall presentation. This is all the more important, as the buildings step up and down, and these, therefore, are all the more apparent. It is important that the bare block concrete walls, which form the entrance to Castle View Drive, should be plastered or even painted in order to improve their appearance. The standard of litter control was reasonable with the odd outbreak apparent, but appeared to be better than First Adjudication Day. The adjudicator was surprised to notice the quite traditional clock to the ultra modern building of the Volkswagen Dealership.