

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castledermot**

Ref: **238**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **175**

Category: **C**

Date: **04/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	
The Built Environment	40	22	
Landscaping	40	23	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	
Litter Control	40	22	
Tidiness	20	13	
Residential Areas	30	22	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	
General Impression	10	5	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>175</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the Tidy Towns competition – this is a very positive action for Castledermot. The competition is an incentive to make progress. The plan is very impressive and will act as a guide to proceed towards a better Castledermot. Part of the success of the tidy towns competition is that it encourages greater participation of the various interests in the town. The committee of 15 to 20 forms a very healthy number and this will be very helpful. The plan presented with the entry and the map show great consideration has gone into this document. Each year as progress is made the plan can be modified accordingly.

### The Built Environment:

There are some very important landmark buildings in the village such as the St James Church and the Round tower. The Catholic Church, the ruins of the town wall, abbey and friary tower ruin are important features. The number of protected buildings is impressive. The business premises along Main Street and Abbey streets are in various states of condition – a number look very well, some are in need of upgrading and attention to painting and general décor. There are some derelict buildings also There is a large number of protruding plastic type signs attached to shops – perhaps a reduction in these would help. A street-by-street inventory could be made listing the state of all the business premises and this could form the basis of a renovation plan. The Square has great potential. A Square renewal plan could be considered here. The carparking area at the Square at the start of Keenan's lane is very rough and needs much refinement. A wall along Carlowgate has some ivy

covering and also some stone removed in places – this would make a very good project – to remove the ivy and repair the wall to its original state.

### **Landscaping:**

The Fair green offers great potential – it is marvelous to see such a large area within a town designated for amenity purposes. Progress with this project will be exciting. The huge Lime trees surrounding the Fair Green give this place great character and care should be taken to preserve this great asset. The grounds surrounding the Round Tower and St. James Church of Ireland are very well cared for and this is an important feature of the landscape of the town. The pathway “The Laurels” is a beautiful pathway – it is hard to understand why it is called that name when Lime trees line each side of this path with no sign of Laurels – perhaps its symbolic relating to the tower. The entrance railings to this path are damaged at the street end. The containerised displays of colourful summer bedding plants provide a summer sparkle to the town. Housing estates green areas whether old as at Abbeylands or new as at Johns estate near the fair green offer opportunities for good landscaping.

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

The development and utilisation of riverbank areas is a very good idea. These are ideal places for wildlife observation and appreciation. Working in conjunction with the schools will be helpful here. A comprehensive plan under this heading should be developed.

### **Litter Control:**

It is good to see in the plan that so much emphasis is placed on litter control. The involvement with the schools is excellent in this regard; the recycling plans for green waste at William Pearce Terrace and Abbeylands is most helpful. There was a considerable amount of litter in the streets and at the square. A constant vigilance is needed in regard to litter control. Encouragement and campaigns will all help towards this aim in time.

### **Tidiness:**

The building work in progress causes a lot of untidiness. At the junction for Tullow/Blessington and Carlow there is much disruption due to works in progress and these are having a bad effect on the tidiness of the town – this is temporary in nature and when all work is completed the finished product will be welcome. A number of business premises need attention to décor. Also some shops have items such as plastic ice cream cones on the pavement, which is not very attractive. Overhead cables hopefully, will be removed in the future. Under this category attention to detail is very important – for example at the square – by Keenan’s lane the planted containers require paint and the broken surfaces on the road or base of wall needs attention.

### **Residential Areas:**

A very attractive feature of Castledermot is the fact that there are so many residences along the streets. This keeps great life in the town and when the town is bypassed this aspect will be further enhanced. The housing estates are well cared for. The new town house development beside the school represents a new style of living in the town. Garden competitions both within estates and between estates are a good way of uplifting standards. Working with resident associations if they exist is also beneficial. Encouragement in any form to prompt people to take interest in their estate – the green spaces and kerbside weed eradication is important. A pride in ones estate or surrounds is very important.

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

The traffic is a major challenge factor in Castledermot. It is difficult to cross the street with safety.

Parking should not be permitted on the main street at all. The work at the Tallow end of the town is very disruptive at the moment. The approach roads are under great traffic pressure and traffic-calming measures are needed.

**General Impression:**

The improvement plans in the submission will make a great difference to the town. This will take time – time to encourage people to cooperate, time to make changes and time for the achievement of the goals. The entry to this competition is a very positive move.