

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlecoote**

Ref: **688**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **248**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 40 | 38 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 32 | 30 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 36 | 34 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 24 | 23 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 36 | 34 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 17 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 32 | 30 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 248 | 234 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

Wellcome to the 2005 competition. Thank you for your comprehensive documentation. The supporting information, photographs and map provided were very useful. Your committee is very ambitious and your longterm plans are wide ranging, the 3-5 year development plan is vital to help focus all concerned. Most importantly the yearly review of the work undertaken combined with any new challenges must be continually factored into the committee's programme. This will ensure that what has been achieved will not be lost and any possible complacency kept to a minimum. The involvement of the various bodies and individuals in the efforts of the tidy towns committee is all important and is encouraging to see it happen in Castlecoote. This is the only approach to achieving better results and marks each year. Keep up the effort.

The Built Environment:

The open area by the bank of the river park is such a lovely amenity for you and visitors to enjoy and is presented to a very high standard. The various flower beds throughout the village adds a great splash of colour. The work undertaken on the older buildings is good to see. The school and grounds were well presented as was the church as were all the houses and business properties in the village.

Landscaping:

The seasonal and permanent planting which has been strategically located around the village attracts the eye and overall creates a feeling of beauty. Overall landscaping is well cared for throughout the village and the use of stone edging and stone walls were appropriate is welcome.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Nice to see the Wildlife Information Board at the bridge and the added facility of the nesting and feeding tables being provided. The island area beneath the bridge is a nice feature on the river. On adjudication day wildlife was very much in evidence along and in the river.

Litter Control:

Obviously the litter control policy is working. Well done to all concerned. Good to see the school active in the Green School Project and the recycling facility was well presented at Castlecoote Stores which itself was well presented.

Tidiness:

Overall the sense of pride of place is very evident in the appearance of residential, commercial and community properties which in turn give Castlecoote a neat and tidy appearance.

Residential Areas:

Again this year the presentation of residential properties is a credit to all concerned. On adjudication day a number of residents were busy attending to their gardens and indeed outside their properties on the road. Well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads were very well presented. The welcome signs were particularly attractive and the flower beds along the road looked bright and welcoming. The various car parking areas were well presented. The hedging along the roads and the stone walls looked well.

General Impression:

The general impression is one of a community that has pride of place and continues to work at enhancing their village for both local and visitor alike. Well done and keep up the good work.

Second Round Adjudication:

Approach roads to Castlecoote sport grassy well maintained open spaces with attractive bog oak sculptures and fine stone walling, all of which help to give the visitor a sense of welcome and good impression of the village. Public premises such as the school (proudly sporting its well earned Green Flag and abundant hanging baskets and window boxes) and Church were beautifully presented with well-maintained grounds. The railings of the latter were showing evidence of minor rusting which should be attended to before next year's competition. Business premises such as Cattigans and the Castlecoote Stores were fresh and appealing, the former with its colourful floral displays! The retention of the traditional telephone box is highly laudable but the perspex was quite stained and damaged and should be replaced with glass. There were very minor outbreaks of weeds along kerbsides. The large committee of 25 is certainly making good progress! Your initiative to encourage the painting red of farm gates is a good one, as is the use of indigenous planting and solar lighting. The inclusion and encouragement of the youth of the village to participate in your activities is again highly commendable and will pay dividends in years to come! Other committees around the country have worked with the local schoolchildren in furthering the wildlife category of the competition by setting projects for them - such as the sowing of wildflower gardens and the building of bird and bat

nesting boxes. These are both areas in which you show a keen interest - bird tables were noted at the open spaces on approach roads and the photographic evidence in your submission of the encouragement of wildlife was impressive. This documentation was well presented and very professional in its appearance. It was a pleasure for the adjudicator to see the work of a committee that shows such enthusiasm and dedication to their village!