

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlerea**

Ref: **175**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **218**

Category: **D**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	34	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	30	25
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	5	4
TOTAL MARK	300	218	207

Overall Developmental Approach:

Castlerea is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included work accomplished in the past twelve months. We note your disappointment in the drop in marks last year, this was due mainly for poor litter control, both in the main streets of the town in your beautiful town park and in the river in particular. You have regained marks lost last year and have moved on from here this year because these areas were both found to be much improved since our last visit. Well done to the small committee of six people on such a fine achievement. No doubt your liaison with the County Council, FAS, the Towns Trust and other bodies have been successful as has your fundraising activities within the community. The town enjoys a wonderful woodland setting reflected in the quality of your town park with its beautiful river banks, and and seated amenity areas.

The Built Environment:

There are some really nice features in Castlerea. The Market Square is beautifully presented and features some fine heritage buildings. The garda station is excellent also as is the credit union. The VEC buildings itself looks well and is beautifully landscaped so it was surprising to see weeds in its gutters. The town has a handsome stock of two and three storey buildings, however some are in need of simple painting to their roadside facades and there is quite a lot of poor quality dated signage on shopfronts which is regrettable. The Arts and Heritage Centre appears not to have progressed much further although we note from your report that it has recently been re-roofed. We

look forward to visiting this development when it is up and running. It is not possible to increase marks under this heading at this time, given the amount of construction work on new developments within the town. We note a new Medical Centre is due to be opened in August of this year and a new restaurant due to be open in March 2006 and work currently in progress on the Williamstown Road for a development of shops and apartments. When all of these developments and others have been completed you may be set for a handsome increase in marks, however this will depend also on getting existing shopfronts upgraded in respect of painting and signage.

Landscaping:

Well done on improvement under this heading also. Newly landscaped areas at several locations around the town have been noted and admired. Your landscaping appears also to be a successful balance between bedding plants and permanent planting including planting for seasonal interest. Perhaps in further landscaping you will choose native species where possible as these are conducive to attracting wildlife. Landscaped areas that were admired included the green area close to Aras Mhaithair Phoil, the elevated green area at the school and landscaping at the mart car park. A grand achievement under this heading.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Demesne Town Park is a wonderful amenity to have in the heart of the town and no doubt given the anticipated population increase will come under greater pressure for recreational amenity use. We note your list of wildlife at Cloonalis Estate which includes pheasant, deer and different types of birds. Cognisance has also been taken of the fish sanctuary at the bridge over the River Suck. The presence of woodland habitats has also been noted. Your next challenge here will be the promotion and heightening of awareness of wildlife present to the community and we would be very interested to receive any details of such activity on the part of the committee. The graveyard was being well maintained and the new stone wall of the GAA park was admired.

Litter Control:

This year's adjudicator is happy to be able to report an excellent standard of litter control in Castlerea town centre in the town park and on approach roads for this year's adjudication. Congratulations to a job well done. We note from your submission that all roads, both in the centre and including approach roads, are swept on a daily basis including Sundays and that the chip shops sweep their own area at weekends. This is the type of information that can earn those extra marks. Well done on participation in the Spring Clean Week in April and on involving parents and children in the clean up of the children's play area. The town seems to have an adequate stock of litter bins.

Tidiness:

Given the amount of ongoing construction work and development in progress in the town, it is understandable that there are a number of untidy sites and derelict sites awaiting redevelopment. As noted previously under the built environment these problems will be resolved over the next few years, given the demand for prime development land. One hopes that the area around the industrial estate and swimming pool will be upgraded as it looks most untidy and is probably the worst presented area of Castlerea. Well done on the acquisition of a recycling point with bottle bank and on the erection of signs requesting people to keep the area tidy. Your small committee will be challenged under this heading for a few years yet to come.

Residential Areas:

Work in progress was noted at several new residential developments around the town and at entrances to Castlerea. This will present new opportunities for the Tidy Towns Committee as it may

be the source of new helping hands for Tidy Towns work but this won't happen unless new residents are welcomed to Castlerea and integrated into the social fabric of the community, this is yet another challenge facing the Tidy Towns Committee. As usual we would remind you to encourage people to pay attention to their boundary walls and roadside areas to their boundary walls also and of course to take on the responsibility for the maintenance of green areas in their own estates. Some boundary walls to dwellings near Knock Roe Park are in need of upgrading.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road and footpath surface in the environs of the industrial estate is really bad and one hopes that this area will receive attention in the short term future. The wirescape along the main street is visually obtrusive in the most negative of ways. You mention in your submission that the sewerage scheme is ongoing. Might it be possible to have service cables ducted and the service poles replaced with attractive lampstandards? We welcome the lampstandards on the bridge. The mart car park has improved tremendously over the last number of years and congratulations are due here to those involved. Well done on stone wall construction at the boundary to the GAA grounds and opposite Cahills Supervalu. Tree planting and fencing completed along the river bank was a welcome development as is new paving in some areas.

General Impression:

Castlerea looked quite well on the day of adjudication, which is a big improvement on last year and has not only regained marks lost but has moved on from there also. Hopefully the committee will be encouraged now to take on the new challenges which will bring Castlerea to new levels in the National Tidy Towns Competition.

Second Round Adjudication: