

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletown-Geoghegan**

Ref: **500**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **188**

Category: **A**

Date: **20/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	188	186

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the committee for their completed application form. Castletown-Geoghegan is a mixed bag with some very attractive features, e.g. approach roads. There are a number of areas which will be outlined in the report which need attention and detract from the overall appearance of this very attractive village. It is recommended that the committee contact Leader seeking grant assistance for the implementation of a 3/5 year plan which would help focus in on improvements necessary

The Built Environment:

The Church and parochial house is the focal point of the village and are immaculately maintained. The tree lined walkway to the graveyard is truly spectacular. The village itself is widely dispersed with a number of derelict or rundown buildings. The Drake Inn is quite dilapidated, this could be a wonderful shop front if restored. Claffeys Pub requires painting and the sign updated as does the shop opposite. The furniture shop is not in keeping with the rest of the village and some work on the frontage of this building is recommended. While the school is well kept the boundary wall needs painting as do the bollards outside Claffeys Pub. The school is well kept but the outside wall requires painting.

Landscaping:

Maturing trees are visible on many of the approach roads. The shrubbery in front of Claffeys is a very nice feature surrounded by stone wall, however some colour here would further enhance this area. The flowerbed beneath Claffey Petrol pumps need attention and the sign should be replaced. The pump in the centre of the village likewise could be a more attractive feature – planting and repainting is recommended. A feature of the village are the stone walls but some of these need to be cleaned back to be shown off to full advantage.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As mentioned last year Castletown Geoghegan has huge potential under this category and the Committee should seek the advice of Enfo in this respect and refer to some of the publications they produce on wildlife conservation (Tel 01/8883910).

Litter Control:

Litter control is adequate and despite the fact that there are very few litter bins Castletown Geoghegan was remarkably litter free on the day of inspection. The Committee should consider providing additional bins

Tidiness:

On first impressions the village is generally tidy, however there is quite a lot of derelict / untended houses, some old cars visible, etc. The ironmongery building is unsightly. There is quite a lot of wirescape around the church and Claffeys and the Committee should seek the advice of the County Council regarding having these wires put underground.

Residential Areas:

The open green area, goal posts and garden bench were welcome additions to the residential estate opposite the furniture factory. A number of houses are well maintained with colourful hanging baskets and shrubs, however some houses require painting and landscaping and unfortunately detract from the overall impression.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are the highlight of the village and are very well maintained with manicured edges, beautiful maturing trees and clear signage. For a small committee this involves a lot of work and is commendable. Signs of neglect are evident in the main street, i.e. car park opposite the Drake Inn and while work is in progress here, this site could be enhanced substantially

General Impression:

As mentioned the strong points of this attractive village are its approach roads, mature trees and the wonderful Church and graveyard. This village has the potential to progress much further in the competition. The committee need to involve all the residents and business people. Good luck with your future endeavours.