

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Castlelyons - Bridesbridge** Ref: **572**  
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **255**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>255</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Castlelyons and Bridebridge Heritage and Tidy Towns Group is certainly a very active and far seeing one. Congratulations on your commissioning of the conservation and design statement and then taking the initiative to persuade the County Council to use it in their local area plan. This puts you in a very strong position to monitor carefully new development as it occurs within the village and is quite laudable given the amount of change that is taking place in our villages and towns around the countryside. Many thanks for your very clear map which highlighted new areas of interest to visit. New signage was admired.

### **The Built Environment:**

The pub in Bridebridge should be painted up before next year's competition. The Church and car park area looked quite neat but perhaps some landscaping could be considered here. Although pots have been located with attractive floral displays this simply is not enough and some tree planting in this location would help greatly. Centra looked quite fresh with the incorporated Post Office. However, the building adjacent should be painted before next year's competition. The School and grounds looked well but its railings and gates should be painted before next year's competition. The old Castle and Abbey are fine pieces of heritage to have so close incorporated into your village. It is indeed a very historic and architecturally interesting pair of villages. The garden centre looked fine and the Abbey Bar looked quite fresh, as was the Community Centre. The Peddler's Rock looked well but perhaps its plastic signage could be replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety?

### **Landscaping:**

Attractive planting of nasturtiums and marigolds to the top of the ditch on the Bartlemy side of the Bridebridge was greatly admired. The planted bed that runs between the two villages by the School was greatly admired.

Congratulations on your tree planting in the village park. Bench and planting in stone beds to the stone wall opposite the Church looked extremely well. The landscaping including cart in Castlelyons with flowers to the front was admired. The graveyard looked well and the tubs of petunias and begonias looked marvellous but perhaps the wall should be painted up before next year's competition to the new graveyard. The village park looked well and was being well used on the day.

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

Work was noted at the riverside in Bridebridge with stone gabions and information boards. Your bird sanctuary is a marvellous idea with bird boxes and information boards and the information boards of the farmland birds was greatly admired. You plan to incorporate a seat so people can listen to birdsong which is an attractive idea. Congratulations on seeking advice from the local wildlife officer in your task.

#### **Litter Control:**

You mention a bin being located outside the Abbey – has this solved the problem of litter in this location as it seemed quite litter free on the day? Congratulations in taking part in the parish roadside clean up on National Spring Clean week. There was a litter blackspot behind the fence at the skip and recycling area was unfortunately still in evidence on the day. Litter was also evident on the grass verge and bushes leading from the Stables crossroad to the village centre in Castlelyons.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

You mention monitoring the recycling area and as a result of which one person has been fined. Unfortunately the skip was still located in this area and dumping was still occurring. At the drink cans recycling bins at the Community Centre these were quite full and a plastic bottle was protruding even though there was a notice clearly stating that it was for drink cans only. We also wish you well with your ideas on composting. Your local authority should provide good advice and support on developing this project, so please continue to consult your local authority in relation to community composting to ensure you don't breach any environmental regulations in this area.

#### **Tidiness:**

Creating a no poster zone in the village is highly commendable and to your credit. The derelict building to the Stables crossroad looked unfortunate still.

#### **Residential Areas:**

New stone walling was taking place to a house on the Bartlemy Road. The fresh and very modern house beside the Community Centre was admired with a sloped bed to the front which will no doubt be planted in time. The Orchard is a most attractive development – it is discreet and fits into the urban fabric of the village extremely well! The adjudicator was very enthusiastic about the idea of planting fruit trees in this location to reflect its history! The Berry Hill development had stone walling and entrance piers in limestone to its front and charming house opposite was greatly admired. There are some very attractive houses and gardens on Church Lane.

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

The road from Bartlemy was well maintained with attractive stone walling leading in and neat hedgerows. You mention asking for weight restrictions on the two bridges and hopefully this will take place. Hopefully you will be able to resolve the problem in relation to the completion of the footpath. Signage was a little neglected on the day – the Castlelyons sign by the School was quite faded and the Bridebridge sign at the Church was scratched. Signage at the Abbey was quite fresh. The children crossing sign at Castlelyons was also quite grubby. Main Street looked extremely smart and new fingerpost signs throughout were admired and looked quite charming.

#### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure for the adjudicator to visit Castlelyons–Bridebridge for the first time. The twin villages are most attractive and the committee is working hard to maintain the standards you so clearly use as imperative to the future of the villages. Congratulations on the strong stance you have taken which is evidently paying off.