

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Castleisland** Ref: **328**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **239**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **21/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>239</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Castleisland is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included a five-year plan and which facilitated the adjudicating process. It is good to note the number of projects which have been achieved for the town over the past four years which have ranged from relocating the recycling point, ducting service cables, upgrading boundary walls, developing footpaths, refurbishing walls and the redevelopment of derelict buildings and sites, a lot has been achieved for the town and the Tidy Towns Committee are to be commended for their tireless work.

### **The Built Environment:**

The main street of Castleisland is made up of handsome two and three storey buildings, some of which have been redeveloped, in recent years. Street furniture is of a high order also, public buildings such as schools, community hall and others are well presented also, however the curtilage area of the latter could benefit from both landscaping and a namesign. Both Garvey's station together with Supervalu were nicely presented. Brown's garage and O'Donohue's garage, which mark the entrance to the town centre, are in need of improvement to their curtilage areas and roadside boundary. The completion of the proposed by-pass will undoubtedly assist in the circulation of town traffic and take less of a toll on the built environment.

### **Landscaping:**

The main street of Castleisland looked quite magnificent with its colourful flower displays and maturing trees. We note from your submission the replanting, weeding, watering and maintenance of thirty-four tubs, fifteen rockeries/shrubberies, and fifty-three hanging baskets. Tree planting on the river walk is acknowledged also.

In the landscaping of the Area Services Offices proposed for the car park, show a preference of native species as these are supportive of wildlife.

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

The River Walk is a wonderful community amenity and landscaping and clearing of banks has been acknowledged. Unfortunately on the evening of adjudication the river itself was spoiled by bottles and cans, this is something that will have to be built into your litter patrol rota. Well done on the planting of trees and wildflowers at the convent wall and the sunflower project sounds attractive also. The roadside boundary wall to the sports grounds, Castleisland Desmonds, were admired. Perhaps a nature trail could be developed along the river walk identifying the flora and fauna that is likely to be encountered. Be sure to feature all weather vandal proof interpretative panels.

### **Litter Control:**

On the evening of adjudication the kerbs on the main street were quite littered in addition to what has been noted above in the river. We note from your submission that council workers clean the street on a daily basis and that there is a litter patrol by Tidy Towns members. Perhaps the time of the litter patrol is something that might have to be reconsidered if the council workers clean them earlier in the day, than perhaps the Tidy Towns groups might come out after tea? Well done on your anti-litter promotion in schools and the business community, we wish you every success in achieving more frequent emptying of litterbins.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations on the promotion of the Green Flag programme in schools and in particular congratulations are due to the pupils of the school who are now on their third Green Flag (Muire Gan Smal). To perform well under this heading it will be necessary to engage in activities to directly reduce the amount of waste generated by the community, in addition to collecting and segregating for recycling. A good place to start might be to ask various sectors of the community to conduct an audit on the amount of waste that is generated by themselves and together to devise strategies to reduce the waste produced. The Race Against Waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

### **Tidiness:**

Weed growth was a feature around the base of trees on the main street, which is unfortunate as not only does it look untidy, but it impairs their rate of growth also. Kerbs at the Cordal road featured weed growth also. Try to reduce the number of large advertisement hoardings which feature on buildings as these are visually obtrusive. We note the number of undeveloped/derelict sites in the town and commend you on your activities regarding these and the redevelopment of many sites. Hopefully The Mart will have its curtilage area developed appropriately in the not too distant future.

### **Residential Areas:**

Chapel Court is a fine new residential development and St John's Park is attractive with its well maintained green open spaces. A new estate on the Limerick road is not enjoying the same standard of maintenance for its green areas perhaps the residents here could be approached with a view to taking on responsibility for their own area. New town centre dwellings on Pound road represent an appropriate enhancement of their streetscapes and the stone wall on the Cahereen Heights is an attractive boundary.

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

The entrance to Castleisland from the Tralee approach road was admired for the quality of its road surface, its footpath, and the curtilage areas of commercial premises. The road surface along Old Chapel Lane is of a high order also and it was a pleasure to note the wirescape free aspect of Church Street together with attractive lampstandards. Road signage throughout the town and on approach roads has been nicely maintained. Congratulations on your fund raising of 60,000.00euro towards the costing of the ducting of overhead service cables, we wish you every success with both the County Council and ESB Good luck also regarding the development of new footpaths.

### **General Impression:**

The Tidy Towns Committee has good reason to be proud of its role in the wonderful improvements to

Castleisland in recent years, a special note of acknowledgement is made regarding the three men on the C.E. scheme who make a significant contribution to the everyday maintenance of the town. We wish you well in bringing your future plans to fruition.