

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Chapelstown** Ref: **331**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **201**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	2
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>201</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Chapelstown is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. We note the absence of a work planned programme and urge you to complete one, as it will help focus your energy and activities over the next few years. Your committee of ten is to be commended for the standard of presentation achieved for such a small village plus your liaisons with Kerry County Council, a local building contractor and the school principle. A difficulty of maintaining the village litter free particularly during the summer months is understood by the adjudicator.

### **The Built Environment:**

The new Community Hall will make a handsome addition to the building stock of Chapelstown. The church is perhaps the most beautiful feature of the village however the Post Office, the National School and its grounds and The Lyle are all neatly presented. The Lub Bar has a vacant looking appearance about it and the adjudicator wonders if its still in business. Good luck with the planned tree planting and general landscaping over the next year or two.

### **Landscaping:**

In your choice of trees and shrubs try to prioritise native species which are supportive of wildlife. Well done on planting flowers and shrubs at the Geokaun View and also near the Post Office. Flower displays at the sports ground were also admired. It is important that grass verges within the village centre between the two nameplates be trimmed to at least their roadside edges and maintained neatly trimmed during the growing season. Inside edges can be allowed to remain wild and feature stands of wild flowers and grasses.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The Sports Grounds, its club house and its roadside boundary wall were presented to the highest standard, well done. Bird boxes were noted at the river, perhaps visiting birds can now be surveyed and the results illustrated on a interpretative panel. This might be undertaken in conjunction with the school as a classroom wildlife project.

**Litter Control:**

Litter control was excellent, notwithstanding that the committee feels this a serious issue in Chapeltown. Your involvement of children regarding their own litter and their participation in litter picking events on busy weekends is paying dividends. Perhaps a little notice placed on or beside bins warning that the licence plates of cars that stop to dispose their rubbish in your bins will be taken and they will be fined.

**Waste Minimisation:**

A good way to compete under this heading would be to approach various sectors of the community e.g. the school, householders and business interest and ask them to audit the amount of waste generated by themselves. This then could form a basis of a plan to actively reduce the amount of waste produced, in addition to segregation and collection for recycling. Your Race Against Waste literature sent to you by the Department will have plenty of ideas on how to proceed under this heading.

**Tidiness:**

Weedy kerbs were a feature of the small residential development on the road leading to the Grotto which generates an ambience of neglect. The building site in existence at the time of adjudication was quite tidy in appearance. Perhaps the kerbs in the residential estate were forgotten when weed killer was been sprayed.

**Residential Areas:**

Reference has already been made regarding the weedy kerbs of the small residential development. In addition to this some roadside boundary walls are in need of attention. Most individual houses were admired together with their gardens, an attractive stand of mature pines in one garden at the entrance to the village was particularly admired. Hopefully new residents to Chapeltown will be welcomed into the community and brought aboard the Tidy Towns initiative.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Roadside verges along road to the grotto and the quarry should be cut back along the roadside edge and the inner edge left to display stands of wild flowers and grasses. Stone walls within the village centre itself should be revealed and refurbished where possible to highlight the beauty and craftsmanship involved and pending the completion of these those on the approach road might then receive attention also. Roadside verges along the Shore Road were left in their natural state which was fine on this more minor road. The overhead wirescape is visually obtrusive and hopefully will be ducted at some time in the future.

**General Impression:**

Chapeltown is a pleasant village with some fine features that could be presented to a standard that would help the village realise its potential in the competition. We wish you well regarding the lowerside of the river and The Lub Bar premises in the village centre, both of which are problematic for the overall presentation of Chapeltown.