

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Castlecomer** Ref: **389**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **230**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **28/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	20
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>230</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Castlecomer is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which facilitated the adjudication process. We note your summary of the Castlecomer Tidy Towns Association five-year plan 2006 to 2011, and wish you every success in its implementation. Castlecomer is an estate village with a rich cultural heritage, which is accessible to today's community. The village is set against the backdrop of low hills, which feature stands of mature trees forming attractive field patterns. The rise and fall of the roads of Castlecomer enable scenic views to the surrounding countryside, which must enhance the daily life of the community. Well done on the support you have received from a variety of development agencies and on your links with local schools

### **The Built Environment:**

Well done on work accomplished for traffic management, this allows your beautiful main street with its period features to be presented to its full potential. Your liaison with the business community regarding their business premises is noted also. The majority of buildings were presented to a high standard and those that were admired include The Avalon House Hotel, which looked beautiful with its blanket of ivy; The Lime Tree was admired also and the gold engraved lettering of the Credit Union premises looks wonderful. You are of course aware of the visual amenity value and significance of the church and its grounds not only to the town, but also to the area in general. Both Scoil Mhuire and the Library appear to have been recently painted, as has the pharmacy. Some boundary walls on the Kilkenny road including those of the Enterprise Centre are weather stained and could benefit from cleaning and or painting. The Gerry Dwyer Family Butchers premises is attractive and the canopy on the other butchers premises should be removed altogether or replaced if necessary with the open ended straight edged type. The Fire Station is in need of painting to freshen its appearance.

**Landscaping:**

The flowerbeds on each side of the main street are colourful and complement nicely your wonderful stands of mature trees. The beautiful shrine to Mary is a fine feature of the town and the hard landscaped area at the top of the main street, which features some attractive seating completes the presentation of your town centre. The ducting of services here will make a significant contribution also.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The graveyard on the Clogh Road is being neatly maintained and of course pride of place must go to your river amenity and woodland area. The Castlecomer wood and map of sculpture sites, together with the names of artists responsible is unique in the experience of this adjudicator. The playground is an appropriate development also, the signage for Castlecomer Angling Lakes is both functional and attractive. We note your wildlife sanctuary and extend our congratulations on the acquirement of significant grants from Kilkenny County Council for the development of your woodland area.

**Litter Control:**

Litter control was poor on the east side of the main street, which is a little unusual, and a broken litterbin at the bottom of the main street was overflowing. A bag of rubbish was noted near the bridge. Another weak spot was the large green open space, which was being used as a play area by children, located directly across from the Castlecomer Enterprise Centre. Further amounts of litter were noted on the corner with the Ballyraggart road near the crossroads. Finally small amounts of litter were trapped around the base of trees on the main street. We note your litter control activities, which are commendable and can only suggest more rigorous monitoring of the litter control situation.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations on the co-operation you have received from fast food outlets within the district regarding their cleaning of all their litter after business hours, this is a fine achievement and well done to the businesses involved. Congratulations are also due to the schoolchildren for their success regarding achieving Green Flag status and of course for their involvement in clean ups and in the promotion of anti-litter awareness. In addition to segregating waste for recycling it is also necessary to identify ways in which the amount of waste generated by each sector of the community can be minimised substantially, so perhaps a new initiative under this heading might be to conduct a waste audit of the existing situation for all sectors. The Race Against Waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

**Tidiness:**

Weed control is very good within the town centre, however it was less strong at the farther reaches of the Kilkenny road. Development sites at the namestone on the entrance from the Kilkenny road are problematic also and a field with wiremesh fencing on the Clogh Road would be better enclosed either with a stone wall or hedgerow if it were not to be developed in the short-term future. The base of trees along the main street were weedy which accounts for the trapped litter here.

**Residential Areas:**

The red bricked hooded cottages on the Kilkenny road are charming, the older terrace located across the road is nicely painted with one or two exceptions. The landscaped entrance to The Acorns residential development was admired, however the presentation of Church Avenue located behind the Texaco garage was poor in respect of general tidiness, some boundary walls, and litter control. Dwellings located at the top of Clogh road were nicely painted. Well done on the linking of Residents Associations with your Tidy Towns network, it is this type of initiative which can produce the best results. Well done to the Hillside View Residents Association for taking on the responsibility of the green area to the front of the boys school.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The entrance to Castlecomer from the approach road to the north looked quite magnificent with stands of mature trees and shrubs which allowed dappled light and shade which was most appealing; the name rock here needs to be repainted, the stone wall located out the farther reaches of the Kilkenny road looks poor but would seem to be worth refurbishing, maybe this could be included in your work programme. The Well Inn Stone is an unusual and appealing feature. The bridge looks well. Car parking is orderly in the town thanks to

your traffic management plan and street furniture has been nicely maintained,also the lack of wirescape along the main street is an excellent feature. Roads and footpath surfaces are quite good, a bollard had been knocked over on the main street which no doubt will be reinstated soon. The 1798 Memorial seat is both unusual and attractive.

**General Impression:**

Castlecomer is a handsome town with fine physical features that complement its setting and cultural legacy; the community are to be commended on their commitment on its overall presentation.