

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Castletown** Ref: **409**  
County: **Laois** Mark: **281**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **05/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	38
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>281</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Castletown is a strong and active Tidy Town's Committee, which has seen the town win the overall title in 2002. It was this particular adjudicator's first visit to the village and it didn't fail to impress. You have a very large committee of 58 and a high level of support from the local community, which must be of great benefit to your work! You would appear to have a good working relationship with Laois County Council, Leader, the ESB and Fas, and a high level of contact with the schools. Your work in relation to the graveyards is looked forward to with anticipation. A work programme was mentioned in last year's report but one was not included with your submission. These should be submitted with each year's entry in order that adjudicators can assess the progress in your work.

### **The Built Environment:**

Both public and commercial premises looked well on the day. The Castletown Inn was cheerful, but its plinth will need painting before next year's competition. The school had been freshly painted. Although the planted bed in the yard was admired, it was wondered whether further landscaping would be effective in this area? The railings will need repainting before next year's competition. The church looked quite charming and was well maintained, as was the adjoining De la Salle Brothers premises. Guilfoyle's was well presented but the adjoining wall will need re-whitewashing before next year.

### **Landscaping:**

Your landscaped areas are well maintained and further enhanced by new beds. The village green is a fine asset to have with its mature horse chestnut trees, planted beds and manicured grass. Planned tree planting in the on the main N7 road is commendable as this will benefit future generations. The replacement of trees that have failed is always laudable. The grotto looked fresh and well maintained. The village pump was simply presented. Planting and stone monoliths at one entrance to the village off the N7 looked dramatic, as did the

box hedging at the other.

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

The ongoing maintenance of the amenity walks and nature trails along the riverside area is good work and well worthwhile. We look forward to seeing your safety measures at the swimming area. The wildlife information board was noted and admired.

#### **Litter Control:**

The standard in this category of the competition was quite very good on the day with little being in evidence. The odd paper was spotted at the recycling area at the school and the green space at St Patrick's Terrace. Your daily litter patrols are obviously paying dividends!

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The bottle bank was noted outside the school and was well maintained and neat. We look forward to hearing your plans for the composting project. This area of the competition will become more and more important as the years go by. Do read your Tidy Towns Handbook and Race Against Waste brochure for ideas for further projects.

#### **Tidiness:**

The village had a neat and ordered appearance on the day. Weed control programmes are laudable but some was evident at St Patrick's Terrace. One of the benches in this location had obviously yet to be painted, as others in the village were most fresh! The abolition of fly posting is an excellent idea. Work to eradicate graffiti is also to be applauded. Christmas decorations were still up in the vicinity of Village Store.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The new curved stone entrance area at Churchfield Heights was noted and admired. The completion of the open spaces in this location and at Churchfield Court is looked forward to. The latter appeared virtually complete on the day. Its entrance wall and associated landscaping were well presented. Elderfield Drive was admired for its attractive stone walling. The houses around the green are a mixture of stone and render finishes and generally looked well. Both street houses and estate houses appeared well maintained on the day, some with attractive gardens. The grassy green spaces at St Patrick's Terrace were well maintained.

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

Resurfacing of footpaths was noted and admired-hopefully these will be completed for next year's competition. The road surface at St Patrick's Terrace was in rough order. Approach roads and rear areas were generally well maintained and presented.

#### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to visit Castletown at last, rather than zipping past on the N7 bypass. You are quite right in your ambitions to conserve and enhance the village to the best of your ability. The aspirations to integrate new developments with the existing style of the village, are also laudable and impressive.