

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletown-Kilpatrick** Ref: **298**
County: **Meath** Mark: **229**
Category: **B** Date(s): **29/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	229

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Castletown Kilpatrick to the 2006 Tidy Towns Competition. This was your adjudicator's first visit to Castletown Kilpatrick and it is indeed a small village of some character. The Map section of your Entry Form was not completed so next year can you please let the adjudicator have a map of Castletown Kilpatrick showing the special aspects of the village that you would like the adjudicator to visit. A hand drawn map will be perfect. The successful Tidy Towns Committees are those that succeed in harnessing the goodwill, skills and experience of a number of different groups and agencies that have something to contribute to the implementation of the 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan. These groups and Agencies include the following –

- GAA
- Local Development Association
- FAS
- County Council
- LEADER Company
- The CLAR Programme (if you are in a CLAR designated area)
- Local school
- Urban & Village Renewal Grant Scheme

The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted for Castletown Kilpatrick with the entry documentation. All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others for Castletown Kilpatrick over the short to medium term. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that you intend to do each year. It is recommended that you do not

have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4/5 key projects.

The Built Environment:

The church and grounds take pride of place and the presentation here was excellent. We look forward to having details of the sign Heritage Trail mentioned in your entry documentation. It is great to read that you have started discussions with the ESB in respect of cabling in the village. The Graveyard entrance area had been recently painted and looked very well, as indeed did the level crossing gates. A plaque here would be interesting to give a little history of this railway line. The school was attractively presented with good grass areas and mature trees. There were a few bare or burnt grass patches that need attention. The Community Centre and the Pitch and Putt Club looked so well. The Limestone name plaque at the roadside and excellent landscaping provides a good setting for this valued community facility. The gates however are in need of painting.

Landscaping:

Your entry documentation referred to the planting of new trees but it would have been good to have had a map showing the locations where this worthwhile planting actually took place. The replanting of the Failte sign has been very successful and it was looking very colourful on adjudication day at the end of June. On the approach roads the planting and containers at the village signs were excellently presented. A small point – the poles that support the sign could be painted matt black. The beautiful Rose Garden overlooking the main road is an excellent feature so lovingly maintained. The various smaller landscaped areas around the village and the attractive flower tubs on their raised stone platforms added essential colour where required. Some of the trees and signs in the village have a ring of flowers around their base. This appears to be a little fussy and it might be better not to do this. However you should seek permission to paint all sign poles.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Pond on the Ardee road was looking a little abandoned and forlorn and one Duck was there to greet the adjudicator! A big concern here is the very untidy cattle crush area with the field gates at the roadside and close to the edge of the pond. Could this area be tidied and the gates painted? It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential of Castletown Kilpatrick, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in the Castletown Kilpatrick area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to the Castletown Kilpatrick area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan for Castletown Kilpatrick to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof display panels in Castletown Kilpatrick, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

Litter control of adjudication day was excellent and we would be very interested to read of your litter control policy. A little litter was noted on the Slane road. The Bring Centre at the GAA field does not have the official signage and the area was a little untidy with weeds and grass.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the community that they support to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Castletown Kilpatrick for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste, segregating litter during clean up events. Can you let us have some more information on the composting unit mentioned for the Ardee road?

Tidiness:

On the Navan approach road an opening was noted with a caravan and a derelict blue van. Could this area be screened from public view? Otherwise Castletown Kilpatrick was quite tidy on adjudication day.

Residential Areas:

The Hillside Drive estate was excellently presented with the new flower beds and signage. Some road boundary walls here need to be repainted and the low white kerbing to the edge of the green area on the left needs to be painted also. Private houses were generally quite well presented in Castletown Kilpatrick on adjudication day.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were presented to a good standard and the village name signs in their beautiful timber contains with the colourful flowers are very attractive. Good verge presentation is a keynote characteristic of Castletown Kilpatrick. As you will probably know by now regular cutting with a mower is the secret to success.

General Impression:

Castletown Kilpatrick has real potential to do well in the Tidy Towns Competition and the presentation is strong in many categories for which marks are allocated. The adjudicator would like to wish your 2007 plans every possible success and do not forget the 3 Year Tidy owns Plan for the period 2007 – 2009.