

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlecoote** Ref: **282**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **271**
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	271

Overall Development Approach:

The materials submitted with the entry form were very comprehensive and give a great insight into the work of the committee in Castlecoote. This is a beautiful village and the dedication of all concerned with the development and upkeep of the village, the river and all the village surrounds are to be commended for such a great appearance resulting. The Plan presented covers many aspects relevant to the competition and indeed relevant to the wide range of enjoyment that is provided both for the residents and for visitors alike. The photographs accompanying the entry form were most helpful. The development work encompasses historical sites and environmental aspects as well as the general roadsides, residential and business areas.

The Built Environment:

The business premises are in a very well presented condition and are shown off extra well with the additional floral displays that seem to frame every building situation in and around the village. Both church and community centre appear very well. The huge amount of stone walls in the area give a great character to the roadsides and these are embellished well by the plantings either of grass verges or summer bedding plants. A number of novel planting schemes are used to every good effect in this way. The Church car park is attractive and nicely concealed by the wall. The Hibernian hall site is an interesting find and no doubt this will be further developed highlighting the history of the village and providing more interest. The bridge itself forms a major part of the built environment and this is a very central feature of the village from which great views can be seen of the island and the many colourful floral efforts that have been created. The lamp standards on the bridge are attractive and the underground cabling is welcome. Owners of properties are doing their fair share in the maintenance of their building.

Landscaping:

Castlecoote excels in the landscape works that have been developed around the village. On entering the

village the lovely sweeps of grass verges with well tended grass, trees and shrub planting is immediately evident. The borders on these greens of shrubs or roses look very well. So many instances of summer bedding plants and planting features appear along the wayside giving a very striking impression. The riverside areas are particularly attractive and the high level of maintenance is clearly evident. The island in the river is attractive and the picnic tables are well used by people enjoying the scene. The church landscape is very well designed and the choice of plants is good. Similarly the church car park is well planted and the old trees at the entrance were noted. These large style trees are so important in the landscape – it is important that new trees of this type are planted so that future generations can enjoy them in the same way - previous generations have left us this fine legacy. Containers filled with summer colour were noted in so many places all adding further to the enjoyment of the village. Individual gardens contribute well to the overall landscape and good credit is due to owners of properties who care for their homes and gardens so well. The car park at Cattigans is well landscaped and the wall and planting gives a nice impression.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside areas are ideal for the enjoyment of the natural environment and the more information that is available the better so that people can develop interest and knowledge about what they might see, where to look and when. Often the compilation of local information is very useful in this regard as local people generally have a great store of knowledge built up over the years that can be handed on. The nesting boxes and bird feeders are very useful and having householders take an interest also brings more birds to the neighbourhood. The extra island donated will be another interesting feature.

Litter Control:

There is a very good system of litter control in the village and at the time of adjudication litter collecting was in place along the roadsides. The litter wardens together with the local people engage well and the encouragement of young people to help with litter collections gives those young people a good respect for the cleanliness of the village and this message is very powerful in furthering the cleanliness of the village.

Waste Minimisation:

The green Flag award is a great achievement for the school and well done for this. The distribution of leaflets about recycling and composting all help. The segregation of waste though time consuming is a very important operation and well done for this. The recycle bins are well positioned and the surrounds look very well. More bins to recycle a wider range of products should be sought. The signage in relation to litter all helps the cause.

Tidiness:

There is a very tidy appearance throughout the village. This is helped greatly by the fine condition of the walls all through the village which give a very clear defining framework to the setting of the village. The business premises are well tended and have a neat appearance form the roadsides. The underground cabling helps the tidiness aspect as does the well weeded open spaces near shops and business premises. The old buildings in the background behind the village shops are a curiosity and their long term future could be considered. Lawn mowing was in operation on the day of the visit and the swift operation of this gave a very attractive and neat finish.

Residential Areas:

Fortunately there are no major housing developments taking place in the village as is happening in so many villages and towns in the country. These have serious consequences to the integrity of the core of villages, It is important to watch for planning applications and to be alert the possibility of such developments having a bearing on the uniqueness of the village and surrounds. The residences are well tended and it is easily apparent that there is a great pride of place in the village by the residents. Care and maintenance of houses is always an ongoing need – painting, weed control and road frontage gardens all have to be taken care of continually or they quickly show the defects.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surfaces are in very good condition with excellent walls and grassed verges as stated above. These are a characteristic of the village and are immediately apparent on entering the village. Footpaths, the bridge, the lighting - all play an important part in this aspect of the competition.

General Impression:

Castlecoote is truly a “tidy town” and well done to all that have helped to achieve this fine standard. So many people are involved creating a great community spirit.

