

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlerea** Ref: **309**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **218**
Category: **D** Date(s): **03/07/2006**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2006 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 34 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 27 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 34 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 22 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 28 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 3 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 12 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 31 |
| General Impression | 10 | 5 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 218 |

Overall Development Approach:

The information and map supplied with the entry form were most helpful at adjudication time. The documentation shows the level of commitment to the tidy towns projects in the town. The additional written notes convey all the work and efforts that have been made during the past year. The difficulties of the enormous building programmes ongoing in the town and the sewage works create challenges. These will be met successfully when all the work is completed. The small number of six people on the committee suggests that a recruitment campaign be initiated. With all the new housing developments it must be possible to recruit people to help with the committee work.

The Built Environment:

There are many fine buildings through the town. The Market Square looks well with the surrounding buildings. The Railway station is a landmark and the modern Credit Union building is interesting. The Catholic Church looks well. The Arts and Heritage centre at the old Church of Ireland is not satisfactory in its present state and need attention. The old school buildings hopefully will get a new lease of life. Newer school buildings look very well as does the hospital. The Health Clinic opposite the cemetery is smartly presented. There are many well presented and painted business premises through the streets of the town, there is also a considerable number that need urgent attention to paint, décor and general appearance – some appear to be almost derelict. A major drive is needed to have all those in need of upgrading dealt with in the near future. An inventory, street by street listing buildings in categories of their needs would be a good project. The new GAA buildings are a good achievement.

Landscaping:

The Town Park is a very pleasant place and the walkways with both woodland style and waterside walks make this a very pleasant strolling ground. The manner by which this connects from the football area to the

town is an attractive idea. The Castlerea prison road approach is richly landscaped and appears very well. The railway platform is well tended. In many locations around the town good work has been done under this heading. Some good landscaping has also been done at the new medical centre and The cemetery looks well and is a large area to be maintained, the trees are very striking in this cemetery. Some of the Yew trees have ivy growing through them and it would be wise to remove this. New landscaping around the Lidl supermarket and attractive paving is in place in the car park. The area approaching the swimming pool is attractive. good efforts are being made in housing estates.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife sanctuary mentioned in the entry form – at Castlerea prison is interesting. There is much opportunity there along either sides of the roadway for wild life and information is that deer are to be seen in this woodland. The town park, the Demesne Park, was also viewed and this could provide some interesting opportunities for appreciation of the natural environment. A comprehensive programme could be drawn up investigating all the various aspects of the natural environment that can be observed, have these listed and form a plan to have this information easily accessible.

Litter Control:

While the descriptions of the work completed in regard to litter control are impressive the facts are that litter continues to be a major problem in this town, the recycle banks were overflowing and people had left large amount of materials by the sides of the bins. These were blowing all over the car parks and elsewhere. At the river bridge in the Main Street the amount of litter noted on looking over the bridge was very disappointing. A new impetus is needed in order resolve these difficulties. Discussions with the council and all other bodies with responsibility for litter are needed to remedy the situation.

Waste Minimisation:

Hopefully St. Paul's School will achieve the green flag status for their work. The segregation and recycling of litter is all important. Your efforts in dealing with the litter collected are admirable – the follow on step to this is reduce the materials that form litter and to recycle what can be recycled This aspect of the competition is about concentrating both on the need to choose materials and methods that avoid producing waste and to consider environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste that is generated. A campaign of awareness with both homeowners and business people needs to be started to give an understanding of the importance of waste management and recycling. Compost heaps can be made for green materials, avoidance of using materials that do not degrade easily and separation of the various materials so that they can be recycled.

Tidiness:

With the sewerage works mentioned in the entry form and the huge building developments taking place, tidiness is suffering badly. The old petrol pumps in the main street, the many buildings needing attention and the signage which in places needs attention all present major challenges are to be met.

Residential Areas:

There is a wide range of residential property within and around the town, many streetside residences are well maintained and having people living within the town streets is a unique feature of towns and villages in Ireland. This ensures a good spirit within the towns. The many new estates are interesting. Residents committees should be encouraged to form in these so that again community spirit can be built and a sense of pride developed within the estates. The committees could also foster improved standards of house maintenance and garden care. Generally the housing estates were looking well. A careful watch needs to be taken to ensure that estates are well landscaped and finished off before the developers leave the sites.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are in a reasonable good condition and the approaches to Castlerea are attractive. The approach road to the prison is particularly attractive. The area as mentioned last year in the vicinity of the industrial and business parks is in a poor state with footpaths and sides of road not very attractive. A major input is needed in this area. Hopefully when all the works are nearing completion in the town this would be an ideal opportunity to place the cables underground.

General Impression:

Castlerea is going through major change at the moment and a really good stocktaking is needed to assess how the town will develop over the next five to ten years, A comprehensive programme is needed covering all facets of the towns environment and use so that rather than a piecemeal approach being made a fully coordinated approach can be taken and all the challenges met in one programme, a programme that would have input from all sectors of the community.

