

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Castleblakeney** Ref: **545**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **212**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	1
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>212</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your submission detailing work done over the year and future work planned. We are pleased to see that you communicate well with your community via church newsletters, meetings, posters in the local shops and the local newspapers.

### **The Built Environment:**

We visited Castleblakeney National School and noted the new extension, it is well presented and the flower boxes add colour to the building. The Heritage Centre and library was closed during the adjudicators visit but we noted the building was well presented with striking blue doors; however no parking is available at this facility.

### **Landscaping:**

You have been busy planting trees this year and we noted recent tree planting on the approach road from Mountbellew and on Ashfield Road. We liked the bridge over the river faced with stone and with flowers planted on top. We suggest that you do the same to the other bridge down at Cluain River Walk.

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

The Cluain River walk sign detailing information about the nature on the boreen was interesting and well presented. We spotted a heron in the river. We feel that this area is a good amenity but would also be enhanced, have you considered erecting a picnic table? We like your proposal to develop a nature trail around Lehenagh/Gallagh Bog and await the final result.

**Litter Control:**

No litter was evident anywhere in the village so we commend the committee who undertake regular inspections etc. the transition year students in St Cuans who are involved in litter prevention should also be praised.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Waste Minimisation is a new section of the competition that was introduced in 2006. This is an area where you have enormous potential to increase your marks. You mention the Spring Clean-Up but unfortunately this does not fall under the concepts of preventing and minimising waste unless you are segregating materials for recycling during these clean ups (which you do not mention). It may be helpful for you to consult the guidance document produced by the Department entitled "How to win the Race against Waste in your Community" to allow you to gain more marks in this section next year. The Waste Awareness Officer of Galway County Council may also be a good starting point. Consider engaging with the local schools and businesses, how about holding a waste awareness day or adopting the local Bring Bank? May be for next year you could work with the local school on a waste minimisation project? The schools involvement would also contribute to the Green Flag project if your local school is a participant.

**Tidiness:**

In general the village and environs are well presented. We noted that the gate at the entrance to the Cluain River boreen was completely broken off and needs repaired or replaced however, the seating down the lane is good. We noted the derelict building beside St. Cuans College on the approach road from Ballinasloe. Please also do something with the telephone box which is getting quite unsightly.

**Residential Areas:**

In general the housing in and around the village is well maintained and well presented.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Roads in the village are of a good standard. The landscaping in the village and at the Pump and Grotto is appropriate.

**General Impression:**

The members of the Castleblakeney Development Association are working hard to maintain the village. You have raised your marks this year in some categories. Overall you should be pleased with your efforts – congratulations.