

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlegregory** Ref: **438**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **230**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	230

Overall Development Approach:

Castlegregory is a picturesque village located in a lovely seaside setting. The residents of this area have done well to keep the village atmosphere even through new development creation and a seasonal influx of tourists.

The Built Environment:

There are some derelict buildings near the Esso building but these have notices attached informing of development. It is hoped that these developments will also stay in keeping with the current townscape as well as other recent developments have. O'Donnell's was also another derelict building that looks set to be redeveloped. The Garda station, Fire station and church were all very well presented as were most of the shops in the Tailors Row and College Street. The new school looks very good and the unique design of the roof is very appealing. However, the layout of the car parks do not allow much green space for students. Although the green area at the entry looks appealing it may be worthwhile investigating using some of this space for parking to allow more space for a grassed recreation area.

Landscaping:

The grotto on entry to the town has been very well kept and the mixture of stone wall and wildflowers is appealing. The stone sign for castle Gregory in both Irish and English looks well. The picnic area and plantings are a peaceful place to stop for lunch. It is to be commended the entry road right from the turn off has been kept in a high standard. Your selection of trees and shrubs as part of the landscaping will keep the village looking appealing year round.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We are happy to see the outcome of your wildlife signs at Lough Gill. We look forward to your next project in interpretive signs in relation to the Natterjack Toad.

Litter Control:

Castlegregory was relatively litter free on the day of adjudication with the exception of the area around the Bring Bank. It is noted that you increase your litter collection in the summer months and this has had a positive effect noticeable in the lack of litter in the town.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling facilities were overflowing on the day of adjudication and there were many bottles placed around the base of the bins. The rubbish that has collected at the back of the bins is noticeable from the school as there is only a wire fence separating them. Ideally this area should be kept clean, but it also might be an idea to enclose the bins so if they are acting as a bit of a trap for blowing rubbish, it is not seen in the school whilst waiting for it to be tidied up. Projects promoting reduction and recycling of waste would assist in this category. Ideally these would focus on all areas of the community including retail, businesses, tourists, the school and residents.

Tidiness:

The Xircom boxes need to be fixed up as they detract from the other surroundings. The beach was tidy and well kept, however the beach car park was a bit rough and would do well to be flattened out.

Residential Areas:

New estates on the road coming into town have been extremely well designed to stay in keeping with the village atmosphere. The use of stone and the cottage style design have ensured that Castlegregory does not lose any of its traditional charm. Your promotion to developers to use appropriate lighting and signage has been successful in retaining the aesthetics of the village. Other established residential areas of the village were well kept.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

It is good to see that the footpath is provided to the new houses on the entry road. However, it is hoped that the section between the Esso station and the new footpath will be completed once building work is finished. Resurfacing of the roads as proposed in last years submission has been undertaken and adds to the towns aesthetic and functionality. The footpath around the pharmacy is cracked and would do well to be repaired so as not to distract from the rest of well presented paths. The sign post to dingle way and other locations was extremely overgrown and could not be read

General Impression:

Castlegregory is a lovely seaside town to visit and it can be understood why it is so appealing to holiday makers. The presentation and preservation of traditional shop fronts in the main part of town and the careful planning of new constructions have ensured that the village has retained its historic charm.