

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castleisland** Ref: **328**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **240**
Category: **C** Date(s): **24/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	240

Overall Development Approach:

Castleisland is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. It is unfortunate you feel disillusioned by the lack of support from your council. Whilst you can definitely approach council to conduct major works such as roads etc you may find that other tasks such as cleaning and environmentally orientated tasks can be undertaken by engaging other community groups and individuals into assisting with the work you undertake. You may also be able to raise funds to assist with this by having a local company sponsor a roundabout for instance, having the school be responsible for a particular park land, obtaining a CE worker if you do not have one or applying for grants for a particular project. We were happy to see your 5 year plan and we can see much work has been undertaken throughout the year. Well done on your commitment to the Castleisland community.

The Built Environment:

The buildings in the main street are well maintained and in keeping with the traditional architecture. New car parks are well designed as off the main street to relieve traffic congestion but still very close for accessibility. The new library car park and library under construction will be a great facility for the town and it was good to see the use of stone for this construction including on the WC in the car park. New footpaths with inbuilt lights were a great design and we ensured we returned to see them in effect in the evening. The new footbridge leading to the SuperValu was a great design and visually appealing as well as protecting pedestrians from having to cross the narrow bridge. Well done to SuperValu for winning SuperValu of the year!

Landscaping:

The new estates that have recently opened have good landscaping including use of native trees, flower beds and green space for children to play. The Castleisland sign on the entry from Limerick was overgrown and only half can be seen. Boys National school had a high standard flower beds and landscaping. Both main

entry routes from Tralee and Killarney had well maintained landscaping and was visually appealing as was that of the main street. Well done on this!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done to the school and its Sunflower Project. The Riverside walk is a great credit to Castleisland and is very appealing. The wildlife sanctuary was great to see in keeping with the river and natural surrounds. However, some grass needed cutting but we presume this is underway as other areas had been done. Well done on looking after this sanctuary. It is very important for the town. One of signs for the sanctuary were just a bit difficult to view as plants had overgrown it. It would be good to have some signs explaining the birds and other wildlife in the area, what they look like and their habits. This could be done for salmon, explaining their migration etc. Perhaps this could be a school project?

Litter Control:

It is great to hear you are participating in National Spring Clean. It was good to see litter bins dispersed in residential areas such as Desmond Ave. There was very little litter on Limerick and the main shopping area. There were one or two litter bins close to being full. It was good to see that businesses and public houses had cigarette bins. The road to the rugby pitch and leisure was quite littered, probably due to the recent cutting back of the hedge revealing the rubbish underneath. The Farmers Sales yards did have rubbish around but it is highly noted that you are currently working with this organisation to reduce this so well done on being proactive here. There was a big improvement in your reduction of kerb litter from last entry. Your volunteer litter control has obviously been effective.

Waste Minimisation:

It is great to know that Castleisland has a collection point for printer and toner cartridge recycling. The recycling bins in the car park were well maintained and no rubbish was around them. We look forward hearing more about your planned composting initiatives.

Tidiness:

The undergrounding of the ESB cable on the Killarney Road makes the area more visually appealing as does your work painting the lamp posts and bollards. There are still a few places with weed growth on the foot path, however there has been an improvement in reducing this. There were a few buildings in the main street that require painting and freshening up for example the Beamish and Crawford building. There were one or two cans in the river but generally this area was greatly improved.

Residential Areas:

The majority of residential areas are landscaped and maintained. The established estates such as Desmond Avenue are well maintained and it is good to hear you are supporting these areas. The walls at Castlevue Drive are very well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some areas of the footpath on the way back from the rugby club are in need of repair as they are broken up. The new footpath near the GAA looks well. The road to one of the new estates is extremely pot holed but it is presumed that this will be fixed as part of the tidy up and landscaping. The work you have done on the verge on the Tralee road looks good.

General Impression:

Castleisland has worked hard to undertake improvements from the last entry in Tidy Towns. At the time of adjudication traffic was a bit hectic due to road works. The work undertaken with landscaping and litter collections have made a big difference. Continuing with the projects you have undertaken and propose will result in Castleisland's visual appeal and liveability improving. Well done on all your efforts.