

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castledermot** Ref: **367**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **194**
Category: **C** Date(s): **22/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	23
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	22
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	194

Overall Development Approach:

Castledermot is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included your planned work programme. It is good to note that you negotiate with Kildare County Council and local businesses and use the Nationalist newspaper to circulate information on Tidy Towns. Well done also on your liaison with school principals especially regarding transition year students. We wish you every success in achieving additional lighting for Castledermot together with interpretative panels.

The Built Environment:

The majority of buildings are quite well presented however it is easy to spoil the appearance of an otherwise attractive shop front with the thoughtless placement of posters in windows and doors, perhaps shop owners could be advised regarding this. A number of poorly presented curtilage areas were noted and a low corrugated rusted roof is in need of attention. Signage on the Leinster Arms looks quite dated and the awnings on Caplice should be removed and replaced if necessary with the more traditional types. Try to eliminate oversized advertisement hoardings from the streetscape. Churches and the school were admired, well done.

Landscaping:

Congratulations on your tree planting programme, those already planted are acknowledged and those yet to be planted to commemorate deceased family and friends is a nice touch and most appropriate, well done. Hopefully all future planting will be native in order to create additional wildlife habitats. It is important however to keep the base of trees free of long grass and weeds especially as this can slow their growth. Planters in the square were noted however plants here need to be more prolific, ENFO have an advice leaflet on container planting which you may find useful, at the time of adjudication the planters did not make a strong visual

statement and the adjudicator feels that more could be achieved for this important focal point in the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plan to create a more wildlife friendly town is admirable however it is important to achieve a balance between the needs of wildlife and the safety needs of the community. It is not a good idea to allow grasses and weeds, no matter how attractive, grow up along footpaths and curbs as this is a safety issue. We look forward to the details of your wildlife survey. The GAA grounds were neatly presented and the Pitch and Putt course looked quite well also with its planted perimeter. Stands of wild grasses were noted and admired.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good on adjudication day throughout the town and approach roads with the exception of a few plastic bottles which appeared to have been discarded from passing cars. Well done on achieving a high standard under this heading. We note from your submission that you have ongoing clean ups days throughout the town on a regular basis and continuously encourage everyone to become involved. Hopefully you are segregating collected litter for recycling.

Waste Minimisation:

Try to avoid dumping of boxes and bags at the site of the bottle banks as this can quickly develop into an eyesore, it is anticipated that signage will be provided for your recycling facilities. It is good to note that both of your schools have achieved Green Flag status and that you arrange clean ups and recycling where possible, well done also on your attempts to involve business interests as well as residents. As stated above it is not acceptable to allow weeds or wildflowers grow along curbs and this practice will lose you marks under this heading in the years to come. Wildflowers can be featured at other more appropriate places around the town.

Tidiness:

One site featured dumped materials; this was in a car park near the junction with the Baltinglass Road. Many entrances to sites together with curtilage areas had an overall untidy appearance; no doubt you have been in touch with property owners. Hopefully the derelict looking Castle Inn sign will be removed. Overall there was too much weed growth throughout the town.

Residential Areas:

New housing developments are attractively presented and it is good to see new residents showing a commitment to their new home town. Lots of older estates are neatly presented and name stones were admired. A poorly presented roadside area to the boundary wall of a dwelling on the road to Woodlands is problematic in presentation. St. John's looked wonderful.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Name stones for Castledermot are particularly attractive. Approach roads were overgrown to some extent but that is quite acceptable at least as far as name stones. A number of road edges were badly potholed; no doubt you have approached the area engineer of Kildare County Council regarding this situation. This was particularly so on minor roads. Your overhead wirescape is quite unsightly and hopefully at some stage in the future will be ducted. We wish you well with your planned projects under this heading.

General Impression:

The difficulty of your location is acknowledged and your efforts to bring developers alongside hopefully will bear fruit in the not too distant future. Development work can't last forever and your problems will be resolved in time with a proactive approach by the committee.