

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlebellingham-Kilsaran** Ref: **1036**
County: **Louth** Mark: **229**
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	229

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator welcomes Castlebellingham / Kilsaran back to the tidy towns competition after their brief absence and in the view of the adjudicator, it is heartening to see such a positive return. This is an exceptionally good effort for a Committee of 8 people for a village of this size and it is hoped that new members can be attracted to the Committee to share the work load. It is good to see also that the local school is being encouraged to get involved with the green school programme and that the schoolchildren are encouraged to participate in tidy towns activities like the national spring clean. The Committee is to be commended on its co-operation with Louth County Council, Louth LEADER, Fas and Residents Associations. These contacts will be very valuable for getting funding and work done. The involvement of local sports clubs should also be considered as they can also be a valuable resource in a range of areas. The adjudicator would also like to commend the Committee on a very informative and detailed entry form and the very well prepared action plan. The Committee is also encouraged to continue to take the comments of the adjudicators on board each year.

The Built Environment:

There is no doubt that Castlebellingham / Kilsaran has amazing potential due to the built environment. The number of lovely historical buildings of importance is hard to believe and they represent real assets to Castlebellingham / Kilsaran giving it a great distinctiveness and character. The buildings in Castlebellingham are particularly attractive. Of note are the Castle, which is a lovely period structure, but there are also some very attractive red brick dwellings on the Annagasson Road leading to the village green. The widows houses are exceptional and it is hoped that their refurbishment and their reuse can be secured soon. There are some other buildings of merit such as Byrnes Pub, the Brewery Tavern, Foleys Thatched Pub and McBrides while the new development at the Malthouse makes a positive contribution to the mix of architectural styles. Dereliction is a problem particularly in Kilsaran (e.g. the Crowing Cock) and also in Castlebellingham with

numerous sites like Owen Breens and the Old Barracks all visible. It is hoped that the strategy to deal with these (in co-operation with Louth County Council) is successful.

Landscaping:

The hard work of the Committee on landscaping projects can clearly be seen. The planting at the village green is very attractive and appropriate. The planting around the pump was also observed. Planting was also observed at the Church in Kilsaran – this was particularly effective and it enlivened the area by providing summer colours. The planting at the statue was also quite attractive, while the landscaping around the bring bank is to be commended. The area around the Widows Houses is also attractively landscaped and this helps to improve their appearance somewhat.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife area at the Castle is very impressive – the adjudicator even spotted a dormouse on a blade of grass during the site visit. This area provides access to two very important habitats, riverside and grassland giving a diverse range of plant and animal life. The river walk is also a nice feature and it would be lovely to continue this further if possible. Some signage would be useful for this facility, both directional signage and information boards to indicate the plants and animals on view.

Litter Control:

During the adjudication, it was clear that a high standard of litter control is being achieved in Castlebellingham / Kilsaran. There seems to be no doubt that this excellent performance reflects the work of the Committee and Fas in organising and undertaking litter patrols, and taking part in the National Spring Clean. This hard work is also reflected in the mark achieved in this category.

Waste Minimisation:

An increasingly important area in the tidy towns competition. The bottle bank at Kilsaran was observed during adjudication and this is a key component in reducing waste generation. However, the Committee should explore undertaking additional actions such as segregating the litter collected and the proposed seminars on community composting should be prioritised. Other actions such as obtaining mulching mowers should be considered. Actions like these will help the Committee to significantly improve your performance in this category in future years.

Tidiness:

In general, it is considered that a reasonably high standard of tidiness has been achieved in Castlebellingham / Kilsaran as no clutter was evident in the village and all signage appeared in good condition. Also, no evidence of unused lamp poles or posts or graffiti were to be found. Weeds however, were a problem, particularly in Kilsaran in the area around the bring bank and in front of the vacant / derelict sites of the Crowing Cock. Also, the signage at the Kilsaran concrete offices was in poor condition and this gave an untidy appearance. Some bollards in this location were also bent over. It is recommended that this area receives additional attention for 2008.

Residential Areas:

There are some particularly attractive and well maintained residential areas in Castlebellingham / Kilsaran. St. Marys Villas was especially impressive with lovely planting and maintenance evident. Bellingham Close / Green are also impressive as they are all very well maintained with attractive planting. St. Olivers Park does not reach such a high standard. The Malthouse provides a lovely example of a modern scheme that is attractively finished and which makes a positive contribution to the streetscape.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Castlebellingham / Kilsaran are generally good, with quality surfacing and clear markings. The Committee should ensure that welcome signs are placed on each approach road. The surfacing and pavements in Kilsaran are quite poor in places.

General Impression:

This is an excellent return to the competition for Castlebellingham / Kilsaran and the Committee deserve credit for a strong performance that is reflected in the mark obtained. Keep up the good work for 2008.

