

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlelyons - Bridesbridge** Ref: **572**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **277**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>277</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Castlelyons/Bridebridge Heritage and TidyTowns Group for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2008. Thank you for the supporting literature which shows that you are an enthusiastic group of people, committed to the improvement of Castlelyons/Bridebridge. Some of your appeals in 'An Caisleánach' are of a plaintive, despairing tone but evidently something works for you. Thank you for the maps but especially the hand drawn one which channelled the adjudicator in good directions. The photographs were also most helpful and the 'before and after' gave some notion of the great work and the imagination in your plans for the past few years. Congratulations on representing Cork in the Pride of Place. Your plan for 2007 to 2010 will help focus your work and give that work continuity. Including 2007 helped the adjudicator see where you are coming from in the overall process. It would be helpful if you identified the agencies you would work with in carrying out your work and also included an outline of how you intend to finance your proposals. Your committee has a definite meeting day which is important for continuity. A village the size of yours must engage in a meaningful way with local bodies. It is clear from the material enclosed that you try to bring the community along with you. Has there been any move on the Green Flag Status from the school? This would be a big boost to you in fighting litter and reducing waste. Finally it is great that there is good will towards you and your work. It is as much as you deserve.

### The Built Environment:

The Castlelyons/Bridebridge area is blessed with some magnificent old buildings and bridges which bestow a rich heritage. The limekiln is a credit to you and you deserve to take a bow. There still is some work to be done with the landscaping. The playground is beautiful and it is being enjoyed by the young folk. You have done well with the old forge but the window spoils the good art work. St Nicholas' Church is magnificent and the park alongside a haven of reverence. In fact the whole church complex is a major highlight. The stone stables in the churchyard are well maintained, add to the heritage atmosphere but work could be done on the

windows from the inside to complete the heritage tone. Tigh an tSagairt completes a charming village picture. In fact the use of an Ghaeilge on your signs and boards deserves a special mention and helps to accentuate the heritage atmosphere of the village. Both schools look well. For this visitor the walls from one village to the next are the abiding memory of the built environment. They are magnificent and are beautifully adorned also with well planned, mature landscaping to add to the effect. The Community Centre looks well. And the Pedlars Rock is doing its best to adorn the street and attract attention. In a rural village there will inevitably be some lack of occupancy and you are aware of the problems that accompany this. The signage at Barry's hardly serves anyone's interest and detracts from the picturesque streetscape.

### **Landscaping:**

The Castlelyons/Bridebridge committees have been working hard for many years to beautify the area with tasteful landscaping. There is a beautiful example of this on the sweep on the road at Bridebridge. Floral displays throughout the area bring a great dash of colour which is much needed on a long street. Ensure in your plans that you include maintenance of existing landscaping. The beautiful work between Glanbia and the crossroads is in need of a helping hand to restore it to a glory it once enjoyed. An unusual feature of the information boards is the inclusion of poetry. Well, maybe 'only God can make a tree' but He needs man to plant it and you have done well with the tree planting. Information boards look well, are placed strategically and cover all one would want from the history of the Abbey to wildlife and the birds in the sanctuary. The cart and churns look fabulous and, apart from telling us something about the history of Castlelyons/Bridebridge, they enhance the old grain store or whatever it was behind. You might next have a look at the boarded up doorway on this building and come up with some magic. The village park is yet another highlight of the visit, set off beautifully by the Pitch and Putt behind. The old three arched bridge is a gem but your own construction is very fine too and will be admired for many generations.

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

It is clear from your submission that you are actively pursuing improvement in this section. You have a beautiful river and exploited it with Picnic Park. You have identified owls and kestrels, none of whom appeared for the adjudicator but you know where they are. You are doing your best to promote the Bird Sanctuary. The wildlife of the village is displayed on information boards. If the riverside walk comes to pass it will be a joy.

### **Litter Control:**

Well done on all of the work you are doing in this section and it is paying off. You have the bins in place and they are being used. You are doing a lot of work. Your next step is to become active in creating an environment in which you will have less work to do on your clean ups and you will have need for a smaller skip. In your plans for the future create strategies for eliminating litter.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is good to see that you are encouraging the school to move on Green Flag Status. Continue the push and this will help to reduce litter not just from the kids but dropped by their parents also. You have a Bring Bank. Also good but there are littering problems with this. Well done on bringing Wastematchers .com to the attention of your community. In order to make further progress in this section it may help to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. This booklet may help you to focus on projects that would be suitable for you. You are certainly trying to create a waste reduction mentality in your community.

### **Tidiness:**

Castlelyons/Bridebridge presents a neat and tidy aspect for the most part. Signage is of a high standard throughout. An old footpath around the corner to the graveyard needs to have the grass cut. Crisscrossing cables are a pity at some points. Take a check on old poles which could be removed. One just holds up a 'for sale' sign and serves no other purpose. As part of your traffic management plan you include a cycle lane out of town, a rare provision but a worthy one. Again your submission illustrates your commitment and your courage in approaching 'offending' property owners.

### **Residential Areas:**

Castlelyons/Bridebridge is blessed by the lovely residences adorned by traditional stone walls. There are great houses exuding pride on all approach roads. All add colour to the village. The terrace across from the Abbey helps to create a vibrant streetscape with the house colours and floral arrangements. The new estate

will undoubtedly bring new life to the village and fresh ideas to your committee. Berry Hill is settling in well as the landscaping matures and unifies the estate. The stately pillars at the entrance are in keeping with the walls that are part and parcel of Castlelyons/Bridebridge. Well done on your house visitation to Berry Hill. The Orchard could do with a little lift.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

It is great to be welcomed to a village with a pretty village stone and in Irish also. As mentioned earlier Castlelyons/Bridebridge is blessed with great stone walls and none better than the walls that shepherd us back into town from the graveyard or guide us from one place to another. One can sympathise with the problems associated with keeping a long road free of weeds. Except for a road verge along by the school you are succeeding admirably.

#### **General Impression:**

The enthusiasm of your submission was matched by the work in progress. You are living in a beautiful place that could suffer badly were it not for the care you show. Your efforts have been in areas in which you can enjoy success and you can be proud of your achievements in those areas.