

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castleblakeney** Ref: **545**
County: **Galway** Mark: **218**
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	218

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Castleblakeney to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your completed Entry Form and supporting documentation. The Lecture delivered in the village on the Built Heritage sounded quite interesting and it is important to spread historical knowledge in the community. With 25 people available for your TidyTowns work programme the competition obviously enjoys a high level of community support. It is encouraging to read therefore that you are enjoying increased support this year locally. The scale of the map provided was too small to be really helpful and you might use a larger scale map next year. Do remember that the TidyTowns Handbook gives great information and suggestions. Both new Committees and those who have been involved in the competition for some time will find this booklet really useful.

The Built Environment:

There was a good use of bright colours on various buildings in Castleblakeney and this combined well with the hanging baskets, window boxes and trees that welcomed the visitor to the village. Again the Heritage Centre / Community Centre was neatly presented and the roadside landscaping here was admired. The cleaning up of the old cottage looked well and makes a feature of this aspect of the past in the village. The railings at the Grotto were recently painted and the overall presentation here was effective. The new stone facing to the bridge was admired and we look forward to progress on your project for the Tower. Again this year the National School looked very neat and tidy and uses an excellent colour scheme complimented by colourful window boxes.

Landscaping:

The new planting at the Heritage Centre / Community Centre worked well in the corner by the entrance and the plants on top of the bridge added some colour that worked well with the colour of the new stone facing. At

the Bring Centre the small triangular landscaped areas were a little unusual but effective. Beside the Blakeney Inn two tubs were noted but the roadside here has the potential for landscaping that would have a higher level of visual impact. The raised beds on the Grotto road out of Castleblakeney were well maintained as was the landscaped area at the signs outside the Youth Development Centre.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The plans for the Bog Nature Trail sound very interesting and we look forward to progress on this on our next visit in 2009. The River Walk continues to be a most attractive peaceful area.

Litter Control:

In the village litter control was quite good but litter was noted in some of the outlying areas. At the Bring Centre one unit was overflowing and some litter was noted around the units. A little litter was also noted on the Caltra road.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to the National School on achieving their Green Flag and thanks to everyone who made this possible. You can now continue and try and earn another Green Flag. You indicated that there is a large scale recycling programme in the School and we would be interested in hearing more of that in 2009. It was good to read that more houses are now using recycling bins.

Tidiness:

The level of tidiness overall was good but a few problems were identified. At the road junction a large sign panel was present but with no lettering or directions. At the Bring Centre a number of blue pipes coming out of the ground were noted – is this for future street lighting?

Residential Areas:

The new estate under construction in Castleblakeney was examined and hopefully this will include appropriate landscaping and tree planting. Private houses were well presented and some good private landscaping enhanced the appearance of a number of properties.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You have done good work on the presentation of your approach roads with attractive landscaping and good green verges. However some verge damage due to vehicles was noted in a few places. Road signs were clean and easy to read. Some cut grass on one of the roads had not been taken away. On the Moylough road the verges here were admired but were in need of cutting.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Castleblakeney for the first time. Good luck with your TidyTowns projects for 2009 when we look forward to visiting you again.