

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Castletown-Kilpatrick** Ref: **298**  
County: **Meath** Mark: **246**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>246</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Congratulations to Castletown-Kilpatrick TidyTowns Committee for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2008. Thank you for your submission and for the supporting literature which shows that you are an enthusiastic group of people, committed to the improvement of the quality of life in Castletown. Thank you for the maps which were simple enough for the adjudicator to find all of the items mentioned on the maps. A Community Centre is mentioned in your 3-5 Year Plan but it is not shown on the maps and was not located. The photos also gave a flavour of what to expect before arrival. It is clear from the literature submitted that you go about your work in an efficient and professional manner. You are well funded and have made quite a bundle of money on awards over the years. Well done. One would like your submission to be more specific on your relationship with the school. One notes your frustration with the entry form and again, you might point out what the difficulty with it is. In your Plan there is mention of a lot of areas that do not feature in your village drawings and one wonders how those plans fit into the TidyTowns application.

### **The Built Environment:**

The community buildings, as in the Church, the school and the Centra are immaculately presented. It has to be difficult to keep the yellow on the school front wall looking fresh and it needed a power wash after the rain and the splashing from traffic but it was still a bright yellow. The Pitch and Putt area also adds to the picture. Castletown is a rural village with much agricultural activity. Not all farm buildings add to the pretty picture but a great effort is being made by some people brighten up old sheds. Some gates into fields are well painted, others are there for their use only. Maybe a feature could be made of these gates in time. The pump with its make belief door is has a dignified appearance and adds to the character of the village.

### **Landscaping:**

The landscaping is delightful and varied. On all approach roads one is uplifted by the name sign standing on

a stone pedestal dressed in summer glory. The barrels on the Slane Road are also elevated onto lower stone pedestals, lovely and neat. The landscaping around Hillside Drive is beautiful. What a pity to miss out on the colour of the sweet pea in a few weeks and what a simple idea. The rose garden is now ablaze with colour. There is further promise of things to come with the preparation of the ground at the cul de sac. It is no wonder the Pitch and Putt won a Club of the Year award. If the attention to the roses is replicated throughout the course, then it is better than the best. Just as the Church dominates the buildings of Castletown, so too does the Falte bed and its manicured surroundings dominate the landscape of the central village. Much imagination is apparent in the various beds and much affection also.

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

Your plans are not as ambitious in this section as in others. Wildlife and Natural Amenities is a wide brief. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition. There is need for a plan with immediate targets, medium term plans and long term aspirations. Glad to see that you are intending seeking the assistance of the National school. They might do a survey of the birds of the area for you. When planning your landscaping projects keep in mind the welfare of birds and bees.

### **Litter Control:**

There was a small amount of litter in the Church car park. As if the bush telegraph was alerted the man in the white van whizzed in, walked around and deposited the offending material in one of the two bins in the car park. Well presented bins at that. Other bins have a local, individualised appearance with litter emblazoned onto them and look well. They do compliment the character of the village. Your litter patrols are working. It is obvious that you are doing well in attempting to control litter

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done on the Bring Bank, discretely stationed behind the wall but yet with easy access. Are the GAA satisfied that people use this area? It is not clear from your submission if people are fully aware of its presence or not. Well done also on the compost bin. I hope what I saw was what you intended me to see. Now that you have made a start with the communal composter you might encourage people to compost privately as well. You should encourage the school to try to achieve Green Flag Status. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. Such a study would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. The emphasis in this section is not on litter control but on minimising waste in your community.

### **Tidiness:**

Your enterprise in burying cables has been well worth the inevitable disruption. The village lamps add distinction to the skyline now. The centre of the village presents a neat image due to the maintenance of your open spaces, the maintenance of the car park and the maintenance of the buildings. Keeping your grass verges cut and your hedges under control on the way into the village also creates a pretty picture. The contribution of the people along the road in presenting their front gardens with colourful pride assists in branding the Castletown style. There was just one hedge on the Slane side that needed to have the weeds and grass underneath controlled. Some of the signs needed to be washed.

### **Residential Areas:**

The overall impression one gets of Castletown is of a community proud of their place. The housing estates are bright, colourful and contribute to the village atmosphere. All of the private houses seem to be on board to create the picture postcard scene. Some are presented with the colour frames of a doll's house. You are fortunate to have so much residential support in the village.

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

The well kept roads into Castletown define the village. The town signs proclaim a welcome. The maintenance and sense of pride is noticeable all the way. Once the effort is made to keep the grass verges, then any stretch without this maintenance becomes more obvious and detracts from the surrounding good work. There are a couple of patches like that. The road surfaces must have improved since last year.

### **General Impression:**

Were it not for a diligent committee such as yours one imagines that this beautiful place to pass through, this haven to visit for a couple of hours, this wonderful rustic setting in which to live, could be a jaded, run down junction on the road lacking the self belief which Castletown now exudes. Well done on your commendable effort. May it have the success you wish for.