

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castleblaney** Ref: **709**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **225**
Category: **D** Date(s): **06/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Castleblaney is most welcome to the TidyTowns Competition 2008. Thank you for your detailed submission and clear maps which were of great assistance to the adjudicator. You are commended for the inclusion of relevant photographs too which always make it easier when allocating marks. Clearly you continue to have a strong relationship with the Schools, local authorities, the business sector and indeed the court services. Clearly the assistance you get from the schools particularly in relation to litter is invaluable. It is refreshing to note that the town is experiencing a significant spell of prosperity and development and that this is having a knock-on effect on dereliction in particular. At this stage you should consider developing a three year plan for Castleblaney outlining the aims and objectives for the various categories. This document need only be a few pages long and would warrant additional marks in this particular section.

The Built Environment:

Statoil was admired for its neat appearance and suitable landscaping at the front of the forecourt. Beech Corner Resource Centre and the Garda Station were commended for a high standard of presentation. The Sheebeen as ever is wonderfully presented. The Ard na Lurgan playground was brightly painted and immaculate in its presentation. Iontas is also commended for its slick appearance and tasteful landscaping. St. Mary's Hospital and grounds, the Roman Catholic Church (with freshly painted railing), John Dalys, Glencarn Hotel, Presbyterian Church and grounds, Conlon's Cafe, Sean's, Castle Lodge B&B and the Church of Ireland all stood out. The derelict Muckno Service Station is unfortunate in appearance and detracts from this area. The Bomb Monument is a wonderful and unusual addition to the streetscape. Finally, of course the Market House has to be mentioned. You are commended for your ongoing lobbying with regard to this and hopefully, in time, this marvellous building will be returned to its former glory.

Landscaping:

A densely planted, stone surrounded marigold bed was admired on the by-pass approach as were a series of planters. A small rose bed was noted at the grassy area to the fore of Crescent Hill. A cart planted in pink at the Clones/Ballybay junction was in full bloom and a well maintained grassy bank with three outstanding flower beds was greatly admired beside Castlecool. Hanging baskets and planters were noted at a variety of locations throughout the streetscape. The high impact rose beds at the Fire Station looked wonderful. The planting of trees at various locations was noted and is encouraged as it helps softens the streetscape and of course facilitates wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Clearly there are significant opportunities in this section to gain marks in the coming years with ongoing developments at the Sub Aqua Club and Lough Muckno Park. The developments of walks and supporting amenities is a huge addition to the town. Keep up the good work!

Litter Control:

You are commended for the innovative 'Certificate of Appreciation' to those who assisted in the Spring Clean. Generally speaking litter control was good on the day of adjudication. The car park at Hope Castle has a significant outbreak of mainly drinks cans and this was unfortunate. One other blackspot, apparently from a dumped bag of rubbish was spotted on York Street.

Waste Minimisation:

You mention that you have visited the schools with regard to the Green Flag Programme. Have any of the schools begun yet? The Bring Bank at Crescent Hill was noted and the site at Supervalu for a second, a more central facility will be a great addition to Castleblaney. Do you segregate and recycle rubbish gathered from litter picking?

Tidiness:

The central business district looks well for the most part and as always the use of inappropriate signage should be discouraged when possible. Of course the appearance of derelict sites has a significant impact on the tidiness of the town and the prominent position of the Market House in its current state of disrepair is unfortunate. The ongoing work at the industrial area is quite unkempt with containers, weeds and rubble so hopefully as the project nears completion these will be removed. Some kerbside weeds were beginning to appear in Blaeberry Walk and this should be dealt with now before it becomes more problematic. Are there plans to landscape the roundabout off the by-pass?

Residential Areas:

The red bricked terraced Alms Houses were greatly admired for their sash windows, tasteful landscaping and pretty hanging baskets of trailing petunias in shades of pink and purple. Ard na Lurgan, Drum-Lynn Manor and Crescent Hill looked well too. Blaeberry Walk looks fresh and the garden at No. 39 was delightful. As mentioned the vacant residences on the Keady road detract from this area but it is good to note the Town Council have contacted the owners. The rear of many of the properties visible from the Supervalu car park is quite bleak and most are in dire need of a few coats of paint. Residential Committees play an important role in the Tidy Towns Competition and they too are commended for their commitment. Please submit a copy of the Residence Association Network Booklet with next years submission.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The opening of the by-pass no doubt has had a marked impact on Castleblaney. Paths, road markings and surfaces are freshly presented. The roadside approaching the roundabout is a little unkempt but this is probably 'work in progress'. Grass verges in this area are a little overgrown in places and should be cut back just a foot or so from the roadside to give a tidier appearance. A grassy bank opposite the entrance to the Alms Houses too was quite overgrown as the adjudicator passed and a similar problem was noted close to Lontas. A laneway opposite the Youth Information Centre was quite heavily overgrown with weeds. We look forward to the ongoing work at the Supervalu Car Park. Roadworks were ongoing on the Shercock road, however, existing paths are weed free and road surfaces excellent.

General Impression:

Castleblaney is a fast evolving town and you are commended on your hard work to date. You are progressing well in the Competition and are picking up significant momentum. Keep it up!