

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletownroche** Ref: **493**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **280**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	280

Overall Development Approach:

Thanks for the completed entry form and thanks also for the map and supporting material, especially the photographs. You have great enthusiasm for the competition with 18 members. And you are getting good support from Fás, Department of the Environment and Avondu / Blackwater Partnership. It is positive to get the message across to the community, as you are doing, through the newsletters, meetings and local newspapers. The school is in liaison with your committee and it is good to see that the school authorities are going for the green flag. It is excellent to find that the volunteers enjoy the social interaction at work nights and meetings. Having successfully completed earlier plans I note that you have an interim plan for 2009. The competition is worthwhile as it gives an impetus to the committee. All of above shows you have a great overall development approach.

The Built Environment:

The RC church at the crossroads is imposing and nicely landscaped. I note it is being renovated and congratulations to the community for supporting this project. Most of the business houses are well presented and I admired Rock Forest Bar and it was festooned with bright flowers in window boxes. Castle Arms was crisp and fresh. Spinning wheel was well presented, but the tractor and old street lights are badly in need of attention. Centra, the pharmacy and Nashs' looked impressive. I admired Dannys, the butchers and the post office. The creamery for sale was tidy. St Mary's church of Ireland has a great old world appearance, it is in good repair and the landscaping of the graveyard was very good. The school is an attractive building and is nicely landscaped and tidy.

Landscaping:

You are giving great attention to landscaping. It was most impressive outside Mullavalee and outside Caislain Caisig. I admired the old water pump and tankards. The hanging baskets on the T poles brightened up the

town. The picnic area at Shinnock Place was beautiful with appropriate garden furniture. Other splashes of landscaping give the town an uplift. The picnic area at the old rustic bridge is special. I loved the Grotto, newly painted and the landscaping around there is supreme. I could see the “footprints” of an imaginative and progressive people all around Castletownroche – well done to all concerned.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I inspected the flower bed to the right of the grotto and it was supreme. I thoroughly enjoyed a walk around the Grotto and back towards the town, but did not spot the heron! There is a great unspoilt area around the river; surely a haven for different species of wildlife. I note you have plans for future development of wildlife, and you could, in conjunction with school, conduct a study of the wildlife of the area and put it on public display. Such notices are always interesting and educational.

Litter Control:

Only small bits of litter was noticed, near the RC church and at the old creamery. Your efforts are plain to be seen as the litter situation is well controlled. The litter bins were well serviced.

Waste Minimisation:

I inspected the bring bank and the 4 bins were clean and the area was tidy. The clothes bank was also tidy and fresh. It was good to find that no rubbish was dumped in this area as this happens frequently elsewhere. It is great to find that cardboard is recycled by Glandore Cartons.

Tidiness:

Generally speaking the town was fresh and tidy. The side road out from the Castle had a lot of grass and weeds on the verge. The old white house looked a bit sorry with the roof falling in on Donerails road. Perhaps the disused petrol pumps could be removed.

Residential Areas:

Hunter Park is very well kept. The new Mullavale estate is well laid out with good houses and an impressive entrance, and work on extending the estate has stopped – a sign of the times. The traditional town houses are mainly bright and cheerful and there is a distinct pride of place attitude amongst the townspeople. An array of beautiful modern houses sport impressive lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers and they compliment your wonderful landscaping. All of this makes Castletownroche a great place to live in.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the approach roads are in good condition with clean, clear and distinct public signposts. The back areas of the town are well developed. The fencing is secure with some magnificent traditional stone walls. I really loved that bridge – wonderful.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to stop off in the town that I so often drove through going to Fermoy. Away from the busy street there are some really relaxing places to think and reflect and relax. You have made your mark and eventually can over the “baton” to future generations with pride – but not for a long time please! Congratulations to all concerned.