

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletownshend** Ref: **668**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **239**
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Castletownshend Community Council for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map. Even though one would love to have all of the sections in the submission fully completed and even though one would like a more descriptive map one has to accept your 'crie de coeur' in the General Impression section: 'No Help'. Therefore, there is great credit due to you for entering Castletownshend in this competition. Long may your enthusiasm continue and may your efforts continue to flourish.

The Built Environment:

Castletownshend unfolds itself as each bend on the road throws up a new vista. The Roman Catholics were not the dominant congregation in Castletownshend and literally roamed far from the centre of Castletownshend civilisation and they were encouraged to bring their Papish school with them. The exterior of this 1889 building is especially interesting. The location of both of these buildings provide a hint of what is in store. The location of the Marian shrine closer to town illustrates the religious role reversal of more recent history. Then the terraced houses most likely mirror the social strata of that earlier age. The gate lodge at the bend was in a pivotal position. The castle and the Church are at the focal point of harbour activity. How one wishes to read a plaque on each building from the pier up describing its earlier role. The two tree roundabout is no brainchild of the landscaping expert on the Tidy Towns Committee but a convenience vestige of old glory. The streetscape down to the pier is like entering the set of a Hollywood movie. No wonder 'The Irish RM' was at home in this milieu. Someone takes good care of the four village pumps. Similarly with unoccupied buildings. All are pristine in appearance. Mary Anne's, Bowhall, Virginia Cottage, Mac's, Sundial House and the red building across the street seem to value the past as much as today. The P/T phone box

benefits its setting and looks cared-for. Even the drains along the street have a unique personality. This is a village of heritage walls, all seem to be in fine condition. One feels concerned for the gate lodge. A walk into the past.

Landscaping:

The informative information board on the way into Castletownshend tells us that this was once a wooded area. The woods still exist and provide the major element of the landscaping of Castletownshend. But your committee has not been found wanting, and neither have the property dwellers. Landscaping in both estates provides colour and tone. The landscaping at the bend honours the Battle of Crosshaven and 'The Irish RM'. Both beautiful and dissimilar. Residents provide much colour through hydrangea and fuchsia. A colourful experience.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Castletownshend has great potential for making progress in this section but we need to hear from you what your plans are. 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.

Litter Control:

A little litter but not much. No graffiti. Well done.

Waste Minimisation:

One feels certain that Castletownshend has undertaken waste minimisation projects but we need a description of the work done from you. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. Such a study would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. Remember that the emphasis in this section is not on litter control but on minimising waste in your community.

Tidiness:

Out of date notices have a down at heel appearance. If the warnings concerning 'Foot and Mouth' contributed to the heritage environment fine but that is not the case. Would it be churlish to mention the overhead cables? Your submission says that you are getting rid of clutter. And succeeding.

Residential Areas:

The private houses are a joy, heritage or less old. The two estates, though different in age, bring colour and youth to the village. The playground would be redundant without these estates. The estate in the town centre is beautiful in its colours and landscaping. The adjudicator did not see a name for this estate. Why not help the estate with its identity and provide a name stone in keeping with the surroundings. 'The Lawn' proclaims itself on its impressive entrance wall. Everything about this estate is impressive; the swirling avenue, the landscaping, the varied design, the stone finish mirroring the heritage surroundings, the maintenance, the playing children.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

It would seem to be an impoverished policy to tidy the road margins. Better the wilderness as it has always been. The roadway off mainstreet leads to a treasure chest of activity. One not only finds the estate without the name stone, other treasures are the newly lined tennis court, the playground, the picnic area with its stone faced seat. One wonders how this site survived the ravages of the Tiger with its exalted position overlooking the bay.

General Impression:

This visit was like a step back in time to the world of the Anglo Irish ascendancy. Congratulations to all who value the heritage streetscape and strive to maintain its flavour. What a wonder it would be if the earlier occupiers of buildings could be listed and the function of those buildings described. If such a study exists enclose it with next year's submission. It would further improve the experience of the adjudicator during his/her visit.

