

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Castledermot** Ref: **367**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **213**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **08/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>213</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the 2009 competition. Thank you for your considered submission and map which made it easy to locate projects and tasks around the town. A little more information on the map, such as road names and perhaps clearer symbols would have been of considerable help. Your 5 year plans is comprehensive but again the years are undated. The plan shows that you have come to know your town, its requirements and potential. Your TidyTowns Plan is a very useful check list of tasks and I hope as you complete items on it you will have a real sense of satisfaction. I am impressed at the scale of your achievement this year.

Your towns' legacy of Victorian vernacular architecture in the centre is a valuable asset. I appreciate that the through traffic affects the image of the town. I expect that once the long awaited of bye-pas is opened you can sit back, see in a new light, and really enjoy in a tranquil mood, the fabric of your town.

### **The Built Environment:**

Your build environment is a great asset. You note the importance of the major buildings in the village but without the "very ordinary" vernacular architecture at its heart the village would be a lot poorer. I noted a large number of derelict sites and empty buildings. Keep up contact with their owners and indeed with the council to see that they are maintained in a reasonable condition. It is such a pity that buildings decay in the middle of the village as development mushrooms on its outskirts. Well done on your restoration work at the Laurels. The railings are very attractive. like the fact that the "style" is borrowed from the detail in the stone wall into the church grounds opposite. Your town has a rich variety also of ancient monuments such as the town walls the remains of an early Christian church, the high crosses and round tower all suggest that the town could certainly sustain a heritage trail.

### **Landscaping:**

Again, well done on cleaning up and restoring the Laurels to a delightful tree line walk. Its vista leading to the church is pleasant, and your work has now made this an amenity for the town. The area around the square is well paved and presented. The seating is welcoming and the paving is completed to a very high standard. There are a number of very fine mature trees especially around Keenans Lane opening onto the Fair Green. This is a very pleasant space. What a pity the bottle banks are located in front of and hiding a otherwise welcoming seat on the grasses area at the end of the lane. Your planting campaign has paid off. The planters around the town are cheerful, and the tree planting is a vote of confidence in the future of your town. Your other main achievement this year is also in this category. The landscaped seating area at the start of the Baltinglass Road is welcoming and will mature to be a very special space.

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

I am glad that you limit your "cleaning up" to areas which will not destroy wild life habitats. Short lawns and pristine walls can look well but are poor habitats. The Fair Green is a potentially rich natural habitat. You might start with a basic survey of the wild fauna and flora in the area. Perhaps your local school could help you with this. Another possible source of help to start would be a student of Environmental Science who as part of a thesis project could undertake a survey and management plan for you. Making the results public perhaps on a well located notice board would greatly deepen appreciation of the areas wild life for both children and adults. You can also get advice on management of such an area from your local engineer and further assistance from your local authorities Heritage Officer.

### **Litter Control:**

I was impressed by the lack of litter evident around the central village area on the day of my visit. Well done, your hard work is again paying off. I have already mentioned the unfortunate location of the bring bank. It still appears to be a dropping off place for plastic bags of rubbish, but only one was visible at the time of my visit. This apparently is a vast improvement on last year. Your litter programme is working well.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is an area that you could easily score well in. As you already have Green Flag School you are well on your way. The right site for a re-cycling facility is important. You might carry out a waste audit described in the Race against Waste Booklet. A seminar to inform people as to what can be achieved in this area might be a good start. Waste minimisation is a popular and welcome idea for most people. It is often as simple as giving people the information and facilities which they need to become eager practitioners. I know you are at the early stages yet, but persevere and the best of luck.

### **Tidiness:**

The derelict houses and shops in the village are a problem. Perhaps now as the pace of larger developments ease, people can again look at their existing building stock and plan to refurbish and reuse them. In general the area is very tidy, verges of paths and roads were largely weed free. Road signs still have room for improvement and in some cases replacement. I was surprised to see direction signs on the public house at the start of the Baltinglass Road. Perhaps you could bring this to the attention of your local engineer. A new sign for the Castledermot Pitch and Put Club might also be a good idea.

### **Residential Areas:**

I was delighted to see the quality of the infill-housing just south of the crossroads. It fits in very well with the older housing stock without having to look as if it were a stage set. Hopefully future years will see more houses built in the central village area.

The new Abbeyland development is well landscaped and should mature well. Keep up your contact with and encouragement of new and established residents associations.

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

It is good to see that the Castle Villa Football Club is improving its boundary treatment. Many of the approach roads have too many and therefore confusing signs. An audit of the signs, and a harsh culling of some, and renewal of the remaining ones, would be of benefit. Again the support of the local engineer would be of help here. The roads in the town and on back roads were generally well maintained.

### **General Impression:**

The village is looking well. I enjoyed my visit. You are doing a great job with a good team. I look forward to your continued progress, keep up the good work.