

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castledermot**

Ref: **367**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **242**

Category: **D**

Date(s): **29/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	50	27	29
Landscaping	50	32	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24	26
Litter Control	50	28	28
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	6	8
Tidiness	30	15	15
Residential Areas	40	28	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	32
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	230	242

Overall Development Approach:

Castledermot is welcomed to the Tidy Towns competition for 2013. Thank you for your entry photographs and helpful map. The competition has contributed much to the village of Castledermot. Your committee are organised and have the help of the community in keeping their own areas litter free. Your engagement with Kildare County Council and Athy town council heritage and community employment scheme is of great assistance in achieving your objectives. Communication is done through local papers try using social media or phone text. There is no mention of a plan for the village if this is the case do try and put together a three year plan which will organise your yearly work and help gain you more marks in the competition.

The Built Environment:

Castledermot is similar to many towns having to cope with unoccupied buildings that sometimes take from the overall appearance of the streetscape. Your committee together with the County Council are working diligently to address these issues. The work that you have already completed, on the beautiful cottages that form part of the history of the town was noted. Many fine buildings were noted. St James Church of Ireland and St James School were well maintained. The fair green is a focal point which is a nice amenity for the community. The granite seating has added greatly to this lovely area which has nice walks to offer the visitor. Castledermot Church and grounds looked well with nice herbaceous planting in the grounds. Other attractive buildings included the school- house green tea restaurant , the Medical Hall and the Castle Inn Bar and lounge to name but a few. The peoples garden formerly Castledermot pound was visited. This is a superb landscaped area with a lot to offer the visitor. The Community centre another important amenity in the town was admired. Not forgetting the town's heritage the ruins of the Castledermot Friary's with fine stonework was well preserved with nice planters outside.

Landscaping:

The landscaping in the town was admired. The fair green had nice mature trees and planting. The landscaping on the Carlow Road was also superb. The people's garden had lovely herbaceous planting that provides all year round colour and food for wildlife. This type of planting is encouraged and your town has many areas of such planting. The Church grounds had nice herbaceous planting. On the Dublin Rd there were nice planters and the whitethorn hedging was noted. The adjudicator would recommend replacing the row of white pots with two or three beds of planting and trees which is easier to maintain and would be more effective. Perhaps you

could utilise the pots in other areas in the town. The planters of flowers throughout the town added colour and were well presented. The planters on the river bridge took somewhat from the natural stone. The black plastic was not effective.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The fair green together with the river are natural habitats for wildlife. The whole area provides a haven for wildlife in the long grass of the green, the mature trees and the wild flowers all making a perfect wildlife amenity. Organising nature walks with the schoolchildren around this area would be very educational. Identifying the many different species of wildlife in the river and along the bank would be a nice project to involve the schoolchildren in. The landscaping throughout the town encourages wildlife as does the many stone walls.

Litter Control:

Litter control is on-going and the whole community must engage in trying to create anti-litter awareness in the community. Having a management plan in place which includes the schools involvement in any clean ups that takes place is important. Regular litter picks are important during the summer. On the day of adjudication some litter was noticed at the fair green and at the filling station. Keep up your good work in this category.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Well done on the work you are doing in this category. Your shop "Seasons" is a novel idea, one way of reducing, reusing and creating funds for your work on the Tidy Towns. The community composter is another good way of using up green matter on flower beds etc. The recycling is also noted. For next year's competition try and climb to the top of the pyramid and reduce the amount of waste entering Castledermot. Carry out a waste survey in the area that will show the amount of waste been produced, then as a community you can take informed steps in how best to tackle reducing waste. Resource Management in the areas of water, energy and transport can bring savings to the community by cycling and using rainwater more efficiently. The list is endless, good luck in your climb up the pyramid.

Tidiness:

There was some untidiness with weed growth at kerbs. On Baltinglass Rd corner signage looked untidy, there were also poles with no signs. The clothes bank had bags of bottles dumped beside which looked untidy. Direction sign for round tower needs painting. The community alert sign at the river bank also needs attention.

Residential Areas:

Some of the housing estates were visited. St Johns and Abbeylands Barnhill all were well maintained with nice landscaping. There was a lovely mix of houses throughout the town from the Carlow road with lovely well-presented houses to the house across from the Maxol Filling station, and the two storey house across from Theresas Beauty salon all looked superb. Well done to the residents on their work. In this category.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the town are to a good standard and set the tone as you approach the village. The bilingual nameplates on stone with landscaping were admired. The work on the footpath on the Athy road was noted and admired. The grass verges were all neat and tidy. On the Carlow road a field gate needs painting. Road walls, fencing and hedging was generally good. The stone bridge over the river is a fine feature and makes a lovely entrance to the town.

General Impression:

Castledermot is a town with good potential to progress in the competition. You have done good work for this year's competition. Thank you for participating and wishing you continued success.