

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castleisland** Ref: **328**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **274**
Category: **C** Date(s): **06/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31
TOTAL MARK	450	274

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Thank you for the filled up Entry Form, three year plan and excellent map of the area. I read all your support material and admired the lovely photographs. You have a large committee and are lucky to have up to 40 volunteers, and it is very positive to have the residents groups involved. There is an impressive list of agencies, bodies and businesses helping out your TidyTowns committee. The activities of the committee are well advertised and this keeps the local people well informed. We see you have a lot of contacts with the schools, and well done for meeting the Youth Leaders and the organisation of youth work. You have a long association with the TidyTowns competition, and this makes Castleisland a better and safer place to live in. This is a good approach to the competition.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

There are some nice shops and offices in the town to name but just a few is unfair and thereby leave out others just as good, but a few caught the eye namely Crowley's Pharmacy, Post Office, Crowley's and Kennelly's Pharmacy and Molloy Galway Insurances. Both Churches are distinguished and elegant. We see some places were freshly painted. The schools are lovely with the national school displaying their green flag and the nice statue nestles nicely in front of a well kept school, and Colaiste Phobal 1987 is well presented and has a nice basketball court. The Day Care Centre is great and delightful to see the plastic greenhouse and vegetable plots. We enjoy the community centre, Rugby grounds with two fine pitches, excellent facilities are noted at the GAA complex. I was delighted with the smashing Athletic Grounds and I felt like doing a few laps of the track only that it is fifty years too late. The small pitch and putt is nice and presents a challenge with all the trees. A children's playground is a good facility for the toddlers. The Snooker club looks in need of attention. A few places look a bit run down and for sale and there is some dereliction which you are working on. All of this is no different from many other parts of Ireland, and I personally have sympathy for some of the owners who must feel very sad and unlucky. The old red structure on the corner heading for Limerick stands out and we look forward to its restoration.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

There is good landscaping in a few places with the lovely trees dividing the Main Street, and we also admire at this point nice tubs of flowers. SuperValu has good landscaping in the parking area, and we also admire landscaping at the Library. Good landscaping is admired at the entrance to Castlevue Drive with a wide selection of trees in the estate. Young and mature trees give freshness and colour on the Tralee road out past Kerry Co Op. Tralee Road roundabout is nicely grassed over and we look forward to the completion of the landscaping at the roundabout on the Killarney road. St Stephens's park had a fine shrubbery. Young trees are coming on well on Killarney road. I felt that ground cover such as dogwood could enhance a few places, but your gardening advisers know best.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

I read that lovely Email from Kathleen at the School and she is to be congratulated for the work she is doing. However we must not leave it all to the school and put in an effort ourselves. You outlined in your submission the route of the Castleisland River Walk and it is a good facility. I did not see a slí na sláinte route and you could consider this. There are many stone walls in the town that integrate well with the native Irish environment, and dry stone walls harbour large quantities of insects and wildlife. With all the splendid trees in Castleisland it is a great place for lots of wildlife and you could enlist the assistance of some people that love the wildlife and they could tell us all about the wildlife of the area. The seminar was a good initiative at the Day Care Centre.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

We applaud the great work done in the school and well done to the teachers. The green flags outside the schools inform us of the topics that are being learned; not all as gaeilge and sums, but they are important also. We are very impressed to hear from children attending primary schools the knowledge gained at a young age and they are able to teach and remind the parents of best practice methods to be adopted to protect the local environment. I admired the minibeast mansion. We see that the community garden are composting and collecting rainwater, and planted fruit trees. You could hold a workshop and further educate the local people on composting, and advice on this is available from the County Council

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The town was presented in a tidy fashion with many well serviced litter bins. The Main Street in particular stood out. The entrance to the Mart is a bit untidy and could do with a makeover, but I see you are having difficulties with this issue for the past few years. The dereliction in places is untidy, and I know that you are in touch with the county council about this. It is indeed great to learn that the material collected in the Spring Clean Up is on the decline – well done to all concerned.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

I visited all the estates highlighted in your map, and the areas are maintained to a high standard. An Caislean Mór has a large open space and I felt it could benefit from the planting of a few trees and shrubs. We are glad to hear of the proactive approach adapted to your efforts by the resident's groups. There are splendid town houses maintained to a high standard, and then there are the other private houses that have great displays of shrubs, trees and lawns that add colour and freshness to the surroundings. This is a nice town to live in.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Castleisland, in my view, has benefitted greatly from the bypass and it is now a pleasant town to visit. The roundabouts will be colourful and interesting and we note you are having discussions with the NRA about this. We see that work taking place of the Killarney Roundabout. There were a few uneven surfaces, not of any great significance, just nearing the town on the Tralee section. Road surface needs attention outside MP Moran & sons. There are good quality footpaths all over the town that add comfort and safety to the pedestrians. Attractive bilingual signs greet us on arrival to the town. I noticed students painting a structure on my visit.