

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castleisland**

Ref: **328**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **298**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **19/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	47	47
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	42
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	19	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>298</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

It was a pleasure to revisit Castleisland and witness all the fine work that has been achieved for the town over the last number of years. Thank you for your submission which included a multi-annual Tidy Towns Plan and a helpful map; the latter would have been even more helpful if this year's projects had been colour-coded in addition to being linked numerically to details in the entry form. Castleisland is welcome to 2017 SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your continued participation over the past 28 years, it has been a pleasure. The network of supporting statutory bodies, groups and agencies for Tidy Towns in Castleisland is impressive as is the strong working relationship with schools especially the Community College. It is satisfying to note that Tidy Towns is a tool with which projects are initiated and supported.

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

The majority of the town's shopfronts are very well presented and complement the Main Street of Castleisland beautifully; many buildings appear to have been recently painted and both the Fire Station and the old Library were admired. It was a pleasure to note very little evidence of roller security shutters on shopfront windows and appropriate treatment of derelict premises. Overall The visual amenity of the streetscapes within the town centre is good. Some premises of course are still in need of attention however these are in the minority.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Flower displays throughout the town are well located and enhance their streetscapes magnificently; name signs are nicely landscaped also and it is good to report that container planting is planted for year-round effect. Maintenance and pruning of trees along Main Street is favourably noted also. Entrances to the town (see below) are excellent in the design and presentation of their landscaping. Well done on the circulation to community groups of plant species good for pollinators and on the Go Green Garden Awareness initiative at the secondary school; the emphasis on trees is good. The Community Garden is well located within the town being very accessible and appears to be well managed. No doubt the stack of cardboard to one side has a purpose and is not dumped. The Walkway around the Athletics Club and Town Park is well surfaced for walkers.

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

The riverbed was very clean during adjudication with the small exception of a blue barrel and the branch of a tree; the community is indebted to the Transition Year students of the Community College for their excellent work in this respect; the results of their water quality research is reassuring for all. Your adjudicator would like to congratulate the students and their teachers on their fine work with the Castleisland's Tidy Towns committee on their Water

Explorers initiative and its fascinating results with local and global implications. Invasive species have been noted by the adjudicator along the river walk and while there are signs identifying these there is no indication of how they should be treated (avoided) by the public. Some commercial properties within the environs of the Riverwalk could pay more attention to the presentation of their boundary walls and curtilage areas. Public seating could be refurbished and the grass maintained trimmed around the sign for dog owners. Stretches of fencing along the river walk could be planted for greater screening of commercial yards and for visual amenity to the standard achieved for fencing along the perimeter of the running track in the Health and Leisure Centre. The new handrail is favourably noted.

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

Congratulations to pupils and their teachers of all schools participating in the Green Flag programme and their success. Initiatives such as Earth Week, Planet Savers and Fair Trade are applauded and the seminar on Water and Communities attended by members of Castleisland Tidy Towns committee no doubt will reap rewards in due course. Awareness heightening with the Ten Top Tips under this heading is noteworthy also. The range of initiatives in place in the Community Garden is impressive. It is now time to start quantifying the results of your efforts in sustainable waste and resource management; it doesn't matter if these are informed 'guesstimates', the idea is to give you feedback on how well you are doing as a green community.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Litter control is excellent in Castleisland and there was very little evidence of untidiness present at the time of adjudication; be a bit more vigilant regarding weed growth, the stretch of kerb along the footpath from the Main Street to the Health and Leisure Centre was very weedy. Well done on the segregation and exploration of the types of litter and on the Adopt a Road initiative. It would be interesting to know if awareness of types of litter and popular locations has facilitated a strategy to bring about a reduction in clean-ups necessary? It was a pleasure to note the absence of overhead service cables and attractive lamp-standards in the town centre. Vigilance regarding advertisement signs is praiseworthy as are efforts regarding unoccupied shopfront windows. Do keep us updated on the success of your dog-fouling initiative. Participation in the National Spring Clean and County Clean-ups is favourably acknowledged.

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

It is good to note that each area of Castleisland has its own Tidy Towns group with responsibility for their own area and the strong working relationship between the committee and groups is admirable; residential areas are nicely presented. Dwellings within the centre of the town in most instances look very well. Consideration might be given to container planting (window boxes) to roadside of dwellings along the Main Street however trees in the median enhance the streetscape significantly. Keep up encouragement to residents to maintain their roadside boundary walls and areas immediately outside of these to as high a standard as that achieved for their dwellings.

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

Your adjudicator was very impressed with the entrance to Castleisland from the roundabout on the N21; Well-maintained green spaces complemented maturing trees shrubs and colourful flower displays. Clonough bridge with its flowers displays represent an excellent introduction to Castleisland also and of course name-plates were especially admired at all entrances. Road surfaces in general are good and footpath refurbishment is noted also in two locations. Car parking is well organised throughout the town and appears to be adequate. Street furniture also looks well especially road signage.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

The overall appearance of Castleisland suggests a cohesive community with a strong commitment to their hometown. Your adjudicator admires the contribution of the business community in particular to Tidy Towns in Castleisland