

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Celbridge** Ref: **338**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **247**  
Category: **G** Date(s): **08/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>247</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Go raibh maith agaibh go leir! Thank you to Celbridge TidyTowns and to the community you represent for having given selflessly of your time in working towards entering Celbridge in this 50th anniversary year of the TidyTowns Competition!

We loved the banner on the Clane approach road! Well done on such an imaginative approach to reminding all the people of Celbridge that they are all responsible for the overall success of the town in the competition! We hope that you - and they - do not see us as "the cigire" of old, then much anticipated in our schools, and also feared. We hope that your opinion of TidyTowns' judges is one of visitors who are very happy to be invited to spend time in your lovely town and to share in your great plans for your place. Our hope is that this Report will encourage you to even better things, and that you will take any negative comment in the spirit in which it is meant!

Celbridge is a large town with an obviously very active TidyTowns committee. You are a very hard working group, and we are impressed with all your work and plans. We hope that you will be able to increase your membership with increasing membership from the new residents of your town. Apart from sharing workloads, new members bring their own creativity and individual strengths and insights to any organisation. You have the support of your local authority, local schools, and many local businesses. This shows that you are appreciated from within your own community. Do you have any contact with other agencies that could help you in your work? You do not mention LEADER in your application form, but you do mention that you have a good working relationship with them in your 5 year Plan. Try to be consistent in your documentation. The same applies to your information on, for example, festivals. If the application form space is not adequate to supply all your contacts, then make the reader aware of this in each subsection by referring them to your 5 year Plan for elaboration. (Sometimes you do refer.)

Your communication channels are excellent, including your website which the adjudicator perused prior to the visit. We hope that your church magazine communication (a copy of which we picked up locally) is replicated through contact with other churches in the area who will also help you out by letting their members know about your activities. The Awards night is a great idea and encourages healthy competition locally.

You have a lot of schools to liaise with, and your two dedicated representatives must be very busy. But these children are the future of our TidyTowns, and it is very encouraging that you recognise this in a positive fashion.

In an ever expanding town like Celbridge, which possibly lacks the pre-existing social infrastructure of some other similar sized established towns throughout Ireland, it is important that a community spirit is fostered, and you are more than doing this through your focussed activities, in which everybody can play a part. So do acknowledge the importance of this aspect of the work. It is very important in today's generally anonymous world.

We admire your courage in holding a St. Patrick's Day parade, with the draw of the Dublin Parade so close! It shows that there is a good sense of a separate identity in the town. The adjudicator visited just after the St. Raphael's summer fete in July. We compliment you on your involvement in this community work! Thank you for submitting all your media cuttings. You have obviously recruited a very good P.R. member. They were both interesting and informative to read.

The Green Flag Schools Programme achievement is to be greatly praised, and you are to be commended for encouraging other schools to achieve the same. Your inter estate quiz and your fundraising programme are a credit to you.

We have only two criticisms here, and one is the absolute absence of a proper map. The sketch map attached to your application form was useful in identifying approach roads and a few basic points of interest, and a few on-going and proposed projects, but it is not in any way comparable to your other submissions, and we suggest that you make sure that in 2009 you supply a map of the entire town and a larger scale map of the town centre. Your TidyTowns Plan is good to a point, but the absence of a Map relating to its contents therein (other than a sketch plan of the proposed boardwalk) is almost staggering! The adjudicator looked through your Plan copy several times to see where pages stuck together! But to no avail!

The second criticism is that, whereas you appear to have a good community communication programme in operation, you do not give any details of the consultation process involved in drawing up your 5 year Plan. Perhaps you did consult widely, but there is no documentary evidence of this!

Your application form was comprehensively filled in, and your supporting documentation is good.

### **The Built Environment:**

Celbridge has an exceptional asset in having Castletown House within its area, and in having the estate walls, gates, estate buildings and great landscape as part of its townscape. You have recognised this in your submission and in your actions. It is great to see that Castletown will be looked after in perpetuity by the State, and we are all grateful to those, who down the years did so much to ensure its conservation until the care was transferred to the State. The restoration of the "four village buildings and Jasmine House restoration" are laudable. The garden at Jasmin House has also been tidied since you submitted your application. However, the large "letting" sign detracts from this building. The Roundhouse restoration at Castletown Gates is a great addition to the streetscape and to the conservation of the estate buildings.

We encourage you in your pursuit of the improvement of Main Street properties through the reduction of inappropriate signage. The property a few doors down from Jasmin House has 3 horizontal signs in its front curtilage. Many projecting and some garish signs exist along the street. We also encourage you to retain all existing sash windows, and for you to liaise with your local authority Conservation Officer in this regard. There are many inappropriate PVC window replacements, for instance in the properties adjacent on the west side of the upper end of main Street in close proximity to Castletown gates. The "Michaelangelo" property is very well presented with nice floral displays on a good building.

The Church of Ireland church in the vicinity of Castletown Gates is a fine landmark building at the top of Main Street. The Catholic church is also a fine building with nice and well-cared for railings fronting Main Street. Its open entrance is inviting into a paved quiet area.

The flower shop (single storey) and its adjacent 2 storey building of stone with brick arched surrounds were admired. A simple two storey red brick house close by, with a simple metal gate in good order was also admired.

Generally throughout Main Street there are many good features such as stone arches and sash windows

retained in places. Speaker's Bar first floor windows have been retained, as have those above Xtravision . Gogarty's building is a delight with its original marbling lettering. What a pity one entire window was filled with political posters, thus taking from its architectural elegance!  
With regard to shopfront design you have quite an amount of work to achieve as in overall terms the standard of shopfront treatment leaves a little to be desired Good luck with this!

The completion of the reroofing of the Mill was another large undertaking. The curtilage is in intense usage locally, and we look forward to further conservation works on this complex of buildings, which are very necessary both from a conservation point-of-view and from a visual amenity point-of-view. Again a rash of signage takes from the internal space. It is good to see its community usage amongst other uses. Its elevation to the river is delightful with the juxtaposition of stonework, bright ochre windows, and surrounding greenery. The new stone name sign was admired, and it is good to see the original dating stone in good repair on the street frontage also.

The Bank of Ireland has been faithful to the architectural qualities of the building at a very significant junction area on the Dublin road approach. Both its colour scheme and conservation standard is very laudable.

Young Butcher's premises has also been treated with respect from a conservation point of view and looks very well. In this area a pub, ochre in colour with floral window boxes was also admired.

The building forming an "end" to the vista as one descends Church Street, was in need of attention but still retains its original windows. These should be retained in any upgrading. The angled juxtaposition of the buildings at the bottom of Church Street with the said 4 storey building on the Clane Road is an attractive built environment feature also.

The old stone house close to the outer speed limit on the Ardclough approach is excellent. On the town side of this house are two attractive terraces of houses. The "Landmark" building (Abbey Hall?) for sale close to the town end of the Ardclough Road and riverside has been conserved and added to in a sensitive fashion.

Cunningham's funeral home's reuse of an old church building is extremely well achieved, and there is no garish or inappropriate signage in the site.

The bridge itself is a beautiful arched stone bridge, a great architectural asset for the town. The seating area on the Dublin side of the bridge, whereas well maintained, looks cluttered with signs, ESB substation and poles

You have obviously also funded the painting of the footbridge.

We will be interested to hear of further developments with regard to your boardwalk. Bridges are an exciting aspect of modern architecture, and Ireland has some good examples of such design. We hope that you will find encouragement to provide such a footbridge!

The Poor Law/Famine Graveyard project is a great achievement. The older Celtic cross was also admired. Thank you for submitting all the media reports in connection with the opening. It certainly shows TidyTowns Celbridge to be a very active and respected group. The signage is simple and effective. The sculpture in the Famine Graveyard is interesting, and shows an awareness of the importance of contributing a twenty first century input to your town. You have erected an interesting explanatory sign on site which is well researched and presented. Well done on having both the sculpture and historical information display projects completed as you planned in your 5 year plan within the time frame you allocated yourselves! Obviously you have good project management skills!

The old stone building which is part of the old workhouse is very well maintained, and the stone is contrasted well with good floral displays and potted trees. Maybe the single Christmas star decoration might be removed – a minute criticism!

The Garda barracks is a simple entry building which is well maintained.

Celbridge Abbey is another notable building which needs some uplift on its roadside profile. What a pleasant environment its grounds and elevations provide for the public carpark attached.

The Setanta Hotel requires entrance improvement. The building itself looks very well framed as it is by its internal courtyard arch. Its grounds are well and colourfully landscaped.

An interesting complex of farm buildings was admired on the town side of the Dublin Road Roundabout, including buildings at an interesting angle to the roadside. Closer to the town an angled and a rounded building opposite the bridge area replicated such features nearer the town.

In considering the exposure of stone on buildings remember to obtain good conservation advice. Rendering with lime may be a more appropriate finish, and also may be more weather friendly for the structure.

With regard to a Heritage Trail, it is so important that you pursue this, as it has the potential to be very important in your Built Heritage agenda! Please be sure to carefully consider best practice in designing such signage, and do not necessarily be led down the "heritage" route with regard to signage, as more modern street signage can be successful. This advice also applies to street furniture in general. Also be aware of the needs of the less mobile, and general disability needs. The NDA have useful publications in this regard. And remember that the colour black is one of the most difficult colours for people with visual impairment to see

We note your plans to restore the twelfth century church at Donaghcumper, and wish you luck with this. No doubt you will be guided by your local authority Conservation Officer.

Remember in your placename signage to be bilingual. The Slan sign at Tesco was noted, as were your own Slan Abhaile signs on your Welcome to Celbridge reverse side. And your bronze plaque in the Famine graveyard begins with the words "Is talamh naofa seo".

You have the OPW and the Landmark Trust working in your bailiwick. You can learn so much from their example, and it is good to see that you are cooperating with them.

### **Landscaping:**

The hard and soft landscaping inside the main gates off Main Street of Castletown House is excellent, both in terms of hard and soft landscaping. The cobbles and red roses are simple, unfussy, and are classical in that simplicity. They form a lovely foreground to the limed walls of the Round House

The grounds of St. Raphael's are mature and well tended with lovely colourful floral displays at its entrance. Well done to all at St. Raphael's!

It is a pity that the grounds, including the River and Millrace, of Celbridge Abbey are no longer available for public use since 2005, but the reasons are made clear on the notice, and are perfectly understandable. The area immediately inside the car park wall is lovingly tended and maintained. And we are sure that all the property is so cared for.

The planting at the Grotto at the junction of the Clane Road and Church Road was admired. It is beautifully colourful and the contrast of the natural stone and the riot of roses and rock plants provide a good antidote to the drab building nearby. One bollard in front of the grotto needs straightening. It is good to see that the Parish Council supports you in a practical fashion in this work.

The garden frontages on the Ardclough approach are attractive for the most part, with a rose hedge particularly noted. The copper beech and silver birch tree plantings closer to the town are very attractive.

The tubs and baskets in Main Street are colourful, and obviously require a lot of effort and maintenance. However a lot of tubs and hanging baskets can look cluttered, and can detract from the linear pattern of the existing streetscape. Perhaps you might research the possibility of providing integrated tree planting and shrub planting with your local authority within the street. We would also respectfully suggest that the half barrels in front of Castletown House entrance are not suitable containers for the classical entrance which they front.

The Catholic church grounds and belfry area are beautifully landscaped, and form an oasis of hard and soft landscaping in the centre of town. We read about your bulb planting, and it would be nice to see some photographs in your submission of the spring blossoming on your approach roads.

Your general maintenance programme is obviously being followed. The trees which you have planted were admired. The wildflower meadow at the Famine Graveyard is very beautiful. All estates obviously take to heart your advice to maintain and watch planted areas. The "Adopt a Tree" programme has been a resounding success wherever utilised, and Celbridge is no exception. Your flower plantings on the approach roads complement your earlier tree plantings.

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

The riparian location of the town and its surrounds gives an immediate advantage to Celbridge in this category, as does its extensive mature landscaped location on many sides. We are delighted that you adopt a wildlife friendly approach. The ducks on the river looked healthy and happy!

Your Famine Wildlife Garden is superb, and a great achievement. Linking an art competition with the wildlife

garden is a creative idea, and is also educational, area for next year, and perhaps make your website more specifically relate to Celbridge only next year.

Thank you for submitting pages from your wildlife website. It is an original idea to have such a site. A general Wildlife Habitat Survey and Management Plan form a major element of the marks within this category. Please work on this section for the entire town and in due course you can make this available on the ground to visitors, as not all visitors will come "armed" with your website pages. Remember also that you do not have to have a professional survey or plan completed. Your schools or resident population must number amongst themselves knowledgeable and interested people, given the extent of your population. Have you third level students studying Environmental Science? Many Primary and Secondary schools have very interested teachers and students. In general explanatory signboards will be welcomed. Take care with the designs, and make them appropriate to their natural environment. A site specific interpretation is very informative and adds to the enjoyment of the surrounds. We look forward to seeing the Famine Graveyard example.

We are happy that you follow good practice with regard to hedgerow trimming. The Composting initiative is good. We are glad that you are obtaining advice with regard to running a composting Seminar from your local authority.

Your proposed visit by an environmental consultant will help the community and school. However a fuller assessment and advice with regard to presentation and management conducted locally would help you to expand greatly on your input under this heading, as Celbridge has such natural and extensive potential in this area. The Heritage Officer from your local authority may be able to further advise you in this area. It is a Section in which you need to concentrate more effort.

Your concern with regard to the current planning major application and its particular effect on this subject is noted, but as the application is current the adjudicator is not commenting in general.

#### **Litter Control:**

Celbridge was fairly litter free on the date of the adjudicator's visit, apart from the the bad case of a burnt-out car, adjacent to the Castletown Gates area in the off street parking area bordering the Church of Ireland boundary wall at the top of the Main Street. This area is bordered by the south western side wall of the Church of Ireland and is a "forgotten" area in many ways, but is marked for some public parking and could potentially be a restful and landscaped area close to the shopping area. Please keep an eye out for this recessed area!

Your dedication to the cause is excellent. We are greatly impressed with your dedication to litter pick-ups twice weekly. A hard working street cleaner was observed obviously doing a good job in Main Street.

When you are replacing your litter bins, have a look at some of the modern designs available, which tend to be more attractive than those in use in the past.

Talk to your local authority architect re design, and to your local area engineer re maintenance as well as to your litter warden. Remember the disability issues also.

Your busy PRO will be well able to communicate the anti litter message well to the students they will meet.

The high vis jackets are not only a good safety practice, but they are in their own way a good exercise in positive public relations and publicity. Your availability through contact numbers thereon, and on your website is very helpful to the general public.

Two days after the St. Raphael's Summer Fete, it was encouraging to see so little litter about. The recycling centre at Tesco was very clean, and the recycling bank behind the Setanta Hotel was also clean, although a number of empty plastic bottle crates, and full wheelie bottle crates were in evidence. However, as the hotel is obviously facilitating recycling for the town, it would be churlish to complain about this. That particular recycling bank has a lovely back and side drop of great old stone walls and associated vegetation and is screened from view behind the hotel.

Your "approach road managers" are doing a great job in keeping the approach roads litter free. We refer again to this fact separately under the Roads Streets and Back Areas heading. ATM receipts, and shop litter disposal, although mentioned under "Waste Minimisation" in your submission, are really a litter issue. Your approach would appear to be working.

Newspaper and local radio publicity is good also.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Your waste minimisation strategy on your website is informative, and shows how you segregate in multi

barrows from waste pick ups. You should really include these pages in your submission. It also refers to your efforts to advertise all recycling points, and refers to your composting workshops. If you have provided leaflets re composting practice in 2008 you might have included copies – but perhaps that is an autumn project. Also it is important not to create too much additional paper to be recycled.

However you should remember that waste minimisation is about more than recycling. It involves prevention as well. It is really what it says – to minimise on waste production before we, as a community, private or public create it in the first case. You might refer to the Race Against Waste booklet available from the Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government. As a local community you could look at some innovative and simple ideas such as organising a “Bring and Take Day”. This would involve using a local hall / community centre for instance for a day where everybody brings items they have no further use for, but which other people might want (and which under normal circumstances they might get rid of as waste) and puts them on display. The corollary is that somebody else needs these items. No monies change hands. Website versions of this idea have been set up in places also. Another group collected all broken crockery, and made a mosaic in their local park. Have a brain storming session, with prizes for the best ideas.

### **Tidiness:**

As already stated, on the day after the St. Raphael's Summer Fete, it was encouraging to see so little litter about the vicinity of the fete. The grounds of St. Raphael's were particularly tidy – a credit to all who live and to those who work there. It would be good however if the old small gate in the wall (on the town side of the entrance to St. Raphael's) could be rescued/painted as it is rusting badly.

In Church Road graffiti was noted on walls and on gates, and again some gates needed painting. The overgrown garden and rusting railings of a one and a half storey house which is referred to again under “Residential” category below took from the tidy totality of this road.

The building forming an “end” view to Church Road but on the Clane approach requires some attention – particularly to its 3rd and 4th floor front elevations. Graffiti was also evident on a gate leading to the rear curtilage of a property on lower Main Street opposite the Mill. Graffiti was also widespread on the ledges of the pedestrian bridge. And a road sign was lying face down in the river edge adjacent to the entry to the pedestrian bridge on the Ardclough Road side. It is also a pity that no imaginative idea has been brought to bear on the ugly piping swung across the stone river bridge.

The row of newer shopfronts along the edge of main Street opposite the Mill have a lot of ill designed projecting spotlights which look untidy and do nothing for the streetscape.

The laneway leading up to Main Street from the pedestrian bridge has poor advertising signage, and is generally a neglected area.

A vacant site on the Ardclough approach was untidy and some weeding is required at a few spots on this approach also. Graffiti was again noted on the end wall/road boundary area of “The Grove” estate on this approach also. (seen when exiting from town.) The attractive “weed” valerian edging opposite Temple Manor needs trimming back. Two gates (one field, and one ornamental) opposite Simmons court estate entrance in a stone wall (one metal gate has an stone arch above) need rescuing as they are rusting and untidy.

The hardware store signage on the Dublin approach is out of scale and a bit strident on entering Celbridge. The single storey office building at the Dublin approach to the bridge needs gable painting.

It was also a pity that the otherwise beautifully located and maintained public car park at Celbridge Abbey had an on-site deteriorating cabin with a torn sign. The car park meters are located like no others, framed by foliage, and the car parking area itself is beautifully screened and planted with a backdrop of great stone walls and buildings. The disability signs were clear and well placed in the car park.

Most of the road signage at the centre of the town is in good repair. It is good to see the traditional striped painted or sleeved effect in use as against the raw metal uprights. An example of a well maintained sign is the yield sign at the bottom of Church Street. There are also many examples on Main Street. Well done to your local engineer and to you!

One of the terraced older houses on the west side of the Maynooth approach (which is for sale) is in need of renewal, and looked untidy.

There is a plethora of signage on the inside gate/railings of Castletown House, but as much of this signage refers to “work in progress”, e.g. planning applications; an excuse can be made for the moment. Two signs appear on the outer railings. One again appears to refer to temporary car parking. But perhaps if this is an ongoing issue a general suitably designed comprehensive notice board might be considered at this point.

On Main Street the Catholic church grounds are exemplary, but the parish notice board on the footpath, together with ageing convent signage is tired and detracts from the overall appearance of the area.

There are some very bad examples of wirescape on Main Street, and in particular there is a pole with a "world record" number of wires protruding in the foreground of the pharmacy and "Tranquility" building. Hanging baskets thereon do not ameliorate this situation! In this general area also, there is a rusty wire gate leading to a rear curtilage with a wall in need of painting within the curtilage, but facing the street was observed. However the worst case of untidiness was that of the burnt out car, graffiti and weed growth in the cul-de-sac area adjacent to the Castletown Gates at the top of the street. This area, as already described, is bordered by the south western side wall of the Church of Ireland and is a "forgotten" area in many ways, but is marked for some public parking and could potentially be a restful and landscaped area close to the shopping area.

Some paving surrounding manhole covers is cracked in the Main Street area.

Please refer to Approach Roads Streets and Back Areas section below for further comments re tidiness which are pertinent also here.

Your "Tidiness" section is short in your 5 year Plan, and perhaps you could revisit it in the light of some of the issues herein.

### **Residential Areas:**

Your annual competition for your residential areas obviously is successful judging from the ensuing results on-the-ground, and you do not appear to have any defaulters.

Starting at Clane approach, Killadoon Park has a good stone wall boundary which continues the settled rural approach effect as one travels towards the town. It is an attractively landscaped estate with mature plantings. The grass areas are very well maintained.

The stone sign at Oakleigh was admired. The newer estate in this area with terraced housing fronting the main road requires additional landscaping. The stone walls and simple railing fronting the estate is good.

St. Raphael's Manor is a very large area of housing, but it is broken up into various smaller roads and cul-de-sacs, and the great landscaping gives the area an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. All the houses are well maintained with gardens to match! The only detractors from the estate was some small element of graffiti on the E.S.B. substation, and on signage. The ash/rowan trees with their berries were particularly admired.

The old stone wall along the side boundary of St. Raphael's along Church Road forms a good amenity to the mostly residential use of the far side of the road. Most properties were well cared for, with the exception of a few gates which needed paint, and the overgrown front garden of one property with rusting railings.

The various housing estates on the Ardclough approach are excellently presented. These include "The Grove", Chelmsford, and Temple Manor –with its lovely colourful floral entrance planting.

On the Maynooth approach Croadaun Forest Park estate is well presented, and contained inter alia some interesting topiary. The stream area and associated stream banks and little stone footbridge are very attractive. Stone name signage was admired. Beatty Park signage was admired with its floral surrounds.

Your name sign campaign is successful. In time hopefully this will be bilingual signage.

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

The Clane Road approach generally looked very well and the approach is green and treed with a distinct division between rural and urban. The first property of note on this approach is St. Wolstan's School and its associated grounds, with a good green open aspect and a discrete building and extensive grounds, which are a great amenity for the children, and were being used extensively during the holiday period. The boundary fencing of the property on the approach to the junction from Clane needs repainting and a small amount of graffiti was evident there. The litter bin outside the boundary wall was somewhat damaged. Small things like this do detract from an otherwise excellent first impression.

The signage for Celbridge Historic Town is good. Is it necessary, given the Tidy Towns involvement in this sign, to have a repeat Tidy Town's sign within a few yards? Signage rationalisation might be considered in general here.

The grass is well trimmed here, and on turning right into the final approach to Celbridge the linear kerbside

plantings and excellent timber bollards were much admired. This approach is delightful with no untidiness. All through this approach you and the local authority are to be complimented on the semi mature deciduous tree planting.

Housing estates along this road are commented upon separately (as throughout). However, it should be said that all estates along this approach present a very acceptable face to the approach road.

The Setanta Hotel has a lovely boundary wall. However its roofless gate lodge detracts from the totality, as does the signage at the access area, especially the larger brash signage. Along this approach two Lisbon Treaty election signs had outstayed their welcome attached to poles. The garage on this approach is tidy and screened with plantings along the bank adjacent.

The Ardclough Road approach has a beautifully conserved and maintained old stone house close to the speed limit. Beyond this is a lovely rose hedge on the same side of the road. Most individual garden frontages (including those fronting the two attractive terraces) are good, with one or two exceptions on either side of the road.

The Dublin Road is an extremely busy approach, and it is difficult for anyone to admire the surrounds with the pressure of traffic. However the major cleanup of last year which you tell us about has paid dividends, insofar as the overall impression is good. Sli na Slainte utilizes this route. Beyond the outer roundabout is the continuation of Sli na Slainte at Salmon Leap with its rural ambience. On the town side of the roundabout an ordinary domestic plastic garden seat was noted at a bus stop! This is a novel idea! The adjudicator wondered who placed it there. And it was not vandalised or thrown over!

The signage at the Golf Range could be more restrained, and perhaps note could be taken of the effective but attractive signage at The Orchard centre nearby. The stone wall at the said Centre is well maintained, but on the town side of this property the adjacent property wall needs to be repaired in places. The footpath verges beside this wall are overgrown in places. Perhaps they form an effective barrier for Sli walkers when using this route? Nonetheless replacement planting instead of high grasses which are overgrown would look better and be somewhat effective barriers to noise and emissions.

The Weatherford and Elga premises looked well, but they could do with additional screening. The Celbridge sign has attractive flowers, but the issue of duplication arises as already referred to. The Donaghmore Riding School entrance, commented upon by last year's adjudicator still awaits resurfacing. The Donaghcumper graveyard and parking area on this approach are extremely well maintained, and on adjudication day there were a good number of people carrying out work to their family plots.

The Maynooth approach is another very busy artery that is well cared for. This route has clean and well maintained cycleways and footpaths. The public artwork at the roundabout was admired, and on inspection day the floral displays there were being renewed. On the town side of the roundabout there are a lot of signs e.g. cycleway signage, parking signage, twinning signage etc. Again some rationalisation might be possible. In general the estates developed along this approach in the outer reaches do not benefit from existing stone walls but the boundaries are planted. One estate frontage (Croadaun the estate section nearer town) required trimming inside the boundary.

One Aldi sign is very large; the generic sign however is simple, but the site is well landscaped with maturing hedging. The Maxol station is neat, but the wall beside the car wash area could be maintained in a cleaner condition. This would involve ongoing maintenance.

The Famine Graveyard is a great asset to this approach with its wonderful and colourful display of poppies in the Wildflower garden. Painted signage on gables facing this approach is also out of scale with the surrounds. The bus pull-in is excellent with ground cover, rose displays and silver birches. This would appear to be good use of the old road line area. On the opposite side of the road in this area is a recess space with precast concrete pipes beside a green gate which requires rationalisation. There is a nice row of terraced older houses on the west side of this road, although graffiti was noted on one gate.

The Hazelhatch approach was in need of weeding on the road verge opposite Ivy Cottage; in the vicinity also is a derelict house. The Tourist sign was partially hidden by foliage. The area outside the E.S.B. substation looked very well with its oxeye daisies.

Well done on your 5 road approach bulb planting scheme! This is very commendable, and will give a sense of place and continuity to your town and alert your visitors to your good work! The flower beds on the approach roads, at Aldi and beside all town welcome signs are also very good.

Your "approach road managers" are doing a great job on keeping the approach roads litter free. However your back areas need attention.



**General Impression:**

Celbridge has a very active TidyTowns committee and a good number of volunteers who are not afraid of hard work. The group have lots of ideas and are working to a plan. The town has grown incrementally and it is very hard for the committee to keep abreast of all issues. The major planning application currently being considered has been exercising the efforts also of the TidyTowns committee. The group are using PR successfully and they need the help of all those who live in, work in, or who have responsibility for Celbridge.

The town has a very large residential element compared with many towns in this category. This brings benefits and problems of its own. But the group are not daunted. Some aspects of TidyTowns work need more attention, while many others are well cared for. But Rome was not built in a day  
!