

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Celbridge** Ref: **338**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **262**
Category: **G** Date(s): **20/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	50	33	33
Landscaping	50	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33	33
Litter Control	50	28	29
Tidiness	30	16	16
Waste Minimisation	20	12	12
Residential Areas	40	31	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	261	262

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Celbridge Tidy Towns to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Your entry is very much appreciated.

Your entry form was accompanied by year 2012 of your 3 year plan and by an expanded version of the entry form and maps. Some photos mentioned were not in your entry submission. In your entry form next year please tell us which year in your 3 year plan it is - year 2 or 3?

With 11 members your committee is appropriate for a large urban centre. And you have a sub-committee of 3. Frequency of meetings is also appropriate.

Your sources of funding and sponsorship are very good. You have good outlets for communication. Please include copies of press cuttings, newsletters or any other print media that mention your Tidy Towns activities. These may be taken into account when marks are being allocated and will be returned to you after the competition.

Your engagement with schools is to your mutual benefit.

Events noted.

The Built Environment:

Your cooperation with Castletown House is to your mutual benefit and long may it continue. The erection of bird/bat boxes is commended. In next year's entry form perhaps you would tell us how many were occupied and also confirm cleaning arrangements. The visit to Castletown House by President Higgins is noted.

Your adjudicator was very impressed with the Workhouse Graveyard. It is very well presented. The information board, in addition to looking well, is also very informative. Given the weather we had this summer this adjudicator appreciated the addition of the newly paved access to the information board and sculpture. It is a very moving experience. This is a credit to Celbridge Tidy Towns. Well done to all involved.

Well done on erecting a plaque to mark the birthplace of Arthur Guinness. The Arthur Guinness Trail would be an excellent initiative. Your adjudicator noticed the new stone sign "Failte go Cill Droichid" on a verge. Fresh earth around it suggested that it had recently been placed there.

Your proposal to the NTA about incorporating improvements to your bridge similar to those carried out to the Chapelizod bridge is commended. This adjudicator also adjudicated Chapelizod and concurs with your views.

Celbridge has a lot of built heritage in addition to Castletown House e.g. the properties mentioned in your entry submission in relation to the Heritage Trail and others besides. The cemetery was neat, tidy and the car park was litter free. The Garda Station is well painted and well presented and has a nice lawn in front of it. The railings are clean. St. Patrick's Church looks well with its central flower bed and flowers and shrubs along the walls. Planters on the footpath add more summer colour. Main Street was enhanced by the hanging baskets on light standards and it was clean with very little litter. The Mill Centre stands out. Of your 7 schools that have achieved Green Flag status one has lots of planting between its front wall and the school building - great variety of flowers, shrubs and trees but they obscured its name. Cunningham's Funeral Undertakers makes interesting use of a former church. - a practical example of the principles - reuse, recycle.

The Grotto is nicely landscaped and in a key location.

The signature stone walls of Celbridge are too numerous to mention individually so this adjudicator will say that all seen were greatly admired. They are an irreplaceable part of our built heritage and must be treasured. It was with a degree of disbelief that this adjudicator read that a developer wanted to demolish a mile of fine stone wall at the Donaghcomper Demesne.

Landscaping:

'Welcome to Celbridge' signs have nice landscaping and the grassed areas and verges are well maintained. These signs are also relevant to the Roads, Streets and Back Areas category and will be commented on there.

Your intervention in the planning process relating to Donaghcomper Demesne is commended and it is safe now in NAMA. Well done to all involved.

The damaged verges were seen and the protection being undertaken by the local Authority on the Dublin Road is an appropriate solution. Your remedial work at Tesco is commended. Tesco also feature in the Tidiness category.

The planting of trees on the Shakelton Road was noted and also opposite Aldi.

Planting an avenue of trees on each approach road is an excellent initiative. The OPW decision to pedestrianise the avenue of lime trees linking the village to Castletown House is not surprising as they want to maximise user enjoyment at all of their properties and attractions. Your adjudicator is a keen walker and regrets not being able to sample the new route around Castletown wood but will return at a future date to do the full walk.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report Main Street is ablaze with summer colour thanks to Celbridge Tidy Towns and the commercial premises. The Grotto has already been mentioned. The area just inside the Castletown House main entrance is delightful.

Adjudication day came too late for the adjudicator to see the thousands of daffodils along the approach roads and too early to see the results of the planting in the Mill area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Celbridge Tidy Towns was busy in this category with more planned. Well done to those involved.

Well done to OPW for buying back a gate lodge and adjoining land of Castletown House which has enhanced the walks and for retrieving woodland from Coillte.

The placing of bat boxes is noted and the work on the ponds and contribution from Eamon Burke is commended.

Hopefully you will have success in securing funding for the wildlife study. Your work with the Community Council to establish sites for swan nesting is commended. The generosity of shopkeepers in donating stale bread for feeding the ducks is also commended. A wildlife information board would be a very useful addition to the bridge area.

Your entry submission mentions your landscaping sub-committee but not your wildlife sub-committee. Please add details of it in next year's entry submission for the information of next year's adjudicator.

Litter Control:

The schedules of your litter picking teams were noted. It certainly is comprehensive including volunteers from St. John of Gods was thoughtful. On adjudication day no litter black spots were encountered although there was light littering seen in the centre. Approach roads were litter free. Well done to all involved.

Tidiness:

Well done for persuading the local authority to remove some of the surplus signs. Keep up the good work. Your weed control on approaches is noted and will enhance them and the grass cutting contractor taking away grass will also improve their appearance. Your success in getting businesses to tidy up their premises is applauded. The 'before and 'after' photos clearly show the improvements.

On adjudication day no graffiti was seen.

The recycling centre at Tesco was clean and tidy.

Waste Minimisation:

The performance of the schools in the Green Flag programme is outstanding. Well done to all involved - staff and pupils/students. The waste minimisation principles and practises that all have learned will percolate out from the schools into the community to reduce the levels of waste generated in Celbridge.

The WEEE Ireland recycling day was successful judging by the photos supplied with your entry application, as was the Spring Clean Day. Segregating can be a chore.

While recycling and segregating are important there are more important objectives higher up the waste pyramid illustrated in the entry form.

Please consult the Tidy Towns handbook for advice and tips on this category. The first action point given in the entry form for this category is "Promotion of best practice". Tidy Towns groups are expected to be proactive in communicating with their community, both residents and commercial businesses, the principles of waste minimisation. The waste pyramid used in the entry form to illustrate the relative importance of each option shows that recycling is a less favoured option than minimisation. Minimisation is about reducing the amount of material, including food, that enters Celbridge and ends up as waste. It also includes reducing consumption of energy, water, etc. Use suitable communication methods available to you. Ask the Tidy Towns Unit for the booklet Race against Waste. A useful web site is www.stopfoodwaste.ie. For next year's entry submission why not print it on both sides of the page and so reduce it by half.

Residential Areas:

Celbridge has 42 housing estates and it is beyond an adjudicator's ability to see them all on adjudication day, nor is it necessary. A sufficient sample was visited to confirm that there is pride of place in Celbridge. Efforts were being made to enhance estates. Many had nice name stones, some also had landscaping. Beatty Park has 2 name stones with landscaping while The Grove has a plain name stone on the path at the foot of a hedge although it is a very well presented neighbourhood with well maintained greens and mature trees. The adjudicator was contrasting entrances, not neighbourhoods. Older neighbourhoods such as Crodaun Forest Park, which were once outside the then village of Celbridge, are now part of a large urban area. In a sense the Celbridge Local Tidy Towns Competition does the adjudicator's job. It is inclusive of 39 out of 42 estates - an excellent entry count.

Unfortunately Celbridge did not escape the blight of unfinished housing estates. However, they are a national problem and a solution is beyond the resources of Tidy Towns groups so there is no adverse impact on an

entrant's marks.

Your role as facilitator in helping housing estates to be taken in charge by the local authority is commendable. As you confirm in your entry submission it is a slow process. It is exacerbated now by the issues that are emerging about poorly finished estates that would be a liability on a local authority and the financial inability of developers to upgrade their estates to an acceptable standard for take over.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

This adjudicator photographed all approach roads and the new 'Welcome to Celbridge' signs look very well, all sited in a landscaped bed. This has improved the good first impression of Celbridge. Not all of the signs are on the same sized grass verge, with or without trees and an attractive old stone wall. One of the flower beds is on the ground. The Tidy Towns group has to use whatever roadside it is faced with. Thankfully, almost all provided a palette to work with. The results of your efforts were admired.

The Mill wheel on the approach from the M4 is eye catching.

Well done to all involved.

The 3 sponsored road signs were seen and photographed.

In addition there are the standard black and white local authority name signs, lower than the Tidy Towns signs and without any landscaping. The sponsors 3 signs are without flowers. Perhaps the local authority signs are superfluous.

Road/street surfaces are sound and clean and the bridge looked well.

General Impression:

Celbridge Tidy Towns has unresolved issues such as the stalled town renewal, lack of litter law enforcement, slow take over of estates by the local authority, etc. Celbridge is moving in the right direction steered by Celbridge Tidy Towns and other voluntary groups, the residents associations and the commercial sector which has provided substantial financial support for civic improvements.

Some photos mentioned in the report were not included.

We look forward to receiving your entry in the 2013 Tidy Towns competition.

Thank you Celbridge Tidy Towns.