

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Celbridge**

Ref: **338**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **276**

Category: **G**

Date(s): **02/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	33	35
The Built Environment	50	33	35
Landscaping	50	34	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33	36
Litter Control	50	29	30
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	12	12
Tidiness	30	16	17
Residential Areas	40	31	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	35
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	262	276

Overall Development Approach:

Celbridge is welcomed to the 2013 TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry, copy of three year plan, photographs, helpful map and supporting documentation. Celbridge is fortunate to be situated in such an ideal location on the River Liffey and surrounded by such splendour in Castletown House and its estate. A good foundation to build on and your group are certainly forging ahead to enhance this beautiful town. Your committee of eleven as mentioned in your entry engage well with the relevant agencies that can assist you to achieve your objectives. Sponsorship from businesses and schools in the area in your adopt a road projects is a positive way of getting work done and also involving the extended community of the town. With no Town Council which means no dedicated budget available, fundraising is another part of your activity and looking at your supporting photographs, your greeting card fundraiser is a great means of promoting this historic town as well as bringing in much needed funds, well done on this novel idea. Having the schoolchildren involved in TidyTowns groups is important but being involved with seven schools that has obtained green flag status in the Green School initiative is an added bonus.

Your survey results are interesting and it would certainly create an awareness of TidyTowns among the community.

Your communication channels are broad with a mix of social media and local newspapers, this should certainly get your group noted.

The Built Environment:

As stated earlier Celbridge is surrounded by Castletown House Estate which is certainly worth a visit and it is good to see such a fine Historic House open to the public. At the south entrance is the magnificent Church of Ireland Building nicely landscaped and across a lovely private residence with beautiful roses on the wall. Kildrought, the oldest house in Celbridge and the former Courthouse all were noted as places of historic interest. The Main Street has some very impressive buildings to mention but a few: The speaker Bar and Castletown Inn both have lovely hanging baskets and lanterns outside. Michelangelo Restaurant has to be praised with its well-presented building and nice hanging baskets. Walsh's Medical Hall was also admired. St Patricks Church is a very impressive building with attractive planting and seating in the grounds, the tubs of geraniums outside added to this lovely 150 year old building. Across from here Centra looked superb with seven flower arrangement across the top of the building.

The next stop was the fabulous building of the Mill with its superb landscaping at front. On the Dublin Road

Donagh Cumper graveyard with its superb wall was noted. The Spar village Inn and Mucky Duck all had beautiful displays of flowers. St. Wolstens Community School, a fine modern community school was noted. The Workhouse graveyard with its nice yew trees and lantern surrounded by a superb stone wall was admired. We note your concerns of building a PCC unit behind this area, it would certainly take from this historic site. Building on an already derelict site would make more sense as well as enhancing that area. Many more buildings were admired. The new beautifully illustrated information and notice board make very interesting reading. Your new welcome sign commemorating the birthplace of Arthur Guinness and the use of the Irish Language was noted and admired. The adjudicator could do with a drink (of Guinness) at this stage after visiting so many well-presented buildings.

Landscaping:

Landscaping as stated earlier was superb throughout the town. The planting in front of the mill with herbaceous plants, your new landscaping project being part of this was admired. The boxes of flowers on the bridge across the Liffey were noted and these boxes looked superb, they blend in very well with the bridge, well done. The Castletown Avenue of mature trees look splendid.

The approach town signs were all well presented on the Straffan Road and there was some lovely landscaping here. The side road adjacent to the Church of Ireland building had some nice bollards and planting. The floral displays on top of the walls at the restaurant over from Liffey Bridge were admired. On the Ardclough Road the seat cobbled area and landscaping was admired as was the new sign here that was being erected on day of adjudication. The grotto was also admired. The Serenity Garden at St Raphaels was visited and much admired. The magnificent floral displays throughout the town in the tubs, hanging baskets and planted areas added so much beauty and colour to the entire area. The planters of flowers on the walls of the Mill at the entrance using black plastic are not in keeping with the walls of the mill and the planters elsewhere. Do continue to plant as much all year round planting as possible together with hedging and trees as it provides colour and food for wildlife. The adjudicator liked the many geraniums spotted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The town has natural habitats for wildlife and amenities for the community to use and appreciate the lovely surroundings. You have the foundations in place, having the river and a fine estate and your plans for many projects to build on what is already a natural area will be welcomed. Walking trails through Castletown House with the launch of Parklands and River Walks booklet will be a very informative tool for walkers, providing local knowledge as well as information on the habitats and species of note. Discover Celbridge Walking Trail thirty points of interest is a lovely guide for walkers, giving information on historical sites and is a great way of learning about the town. The information leaflets can be taken home, this way promoting the town further. Your pilot project on roadside verges is interesting. Mowing at the very edge and leaving a corridor for wildlife and wild vegetation to grow is recommended as long as vegetation is not falling out onto the road obstructing signage view or presents an untidy appearance, it is ok. Stone walls are also areas which benefit insects and some birds and this is another habitat that you have a plentiful supply of. Your wildlife subcommittee will not be short of work to do.

Litter Control:

Your group has one of the best organised plans in place with regard to litter and how you can combat it. Having a rota in place ensures that it is not the same people that are doing the work. Without the full commitment of the community it is very difficult to overcome problems such as litter. This you have done great work on and have also included the schools, and certainly this is where the training begins. Litter on the day of adjudication was good with only fresh litter noted, this was at the bottle banks and some small amount on Main Street. The new design of litter bins which prevent crows from picking were noted.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Your work in this category shows you have an understanding of his whole area of waste minimisation. It has caused problems for groups in the past just thinking along the lines of recycling. As you are aware, it is how we can best reduce waste produced in the first place. Since the down turn in the economy people are more conscious of saving money and this has resulted in a natural upsurge in people reducing. Clothes waste is one area that certainly has reduced. They are altered and reused or passed on to charity shops which in turn make money for charities. Groups also sell books and obtain funds for projects or leave them into various institutions. Food is another area which could be minimised. The green matter, like tree clippings etc can be shredded and used on flower beds. Resource management in the areas of water energy and transport brings savings to the community if managed correctly. Collecting rainwater in water butts for watering flowers in the community is saving water and energy. Energy is another area, estates have come together and monitored the amount of energy they were using and have saved money by reducing their energy usage. Transport by using public transport or car sharing, walking or cycling is another way. The list is endless and the top of the pyramid is certainly the one to aim for. Your work with your schools that have all achieved so much in the green schools initiative is very helpful. The schools pupil's, teachers, parents and all concerned are to the commended on their achievements in the green schools initiative. Well done.

Tidiness:

The town was generally tidy on day of adjudication. Signage throughout is good. The heritage signs were much admired, however one directional sign noted for Naas and Clane needs painting. On the north entrance to

Castletown graffiti was noted on service points. At the Mill one small sign, Danger, with graffiti looked bad and takes from this magnificent area. Well done on your work in trying to secure funding for removal of overhead cables, hopefully you were successful as this round of funding is coming to an end. The funding you have been allocated for work on Liffey Bridge will be welcome as the adjudicator noticed this area was unsafe for pedestrians with the volume of traffic, well done on this project. Try and encourage all businesses where possible to provide cigarette butt bins outside.

Residential Areas:

Well done on Celbridge TidyTowns awards which includes tidy estates award. This is a great competition which in itself encourages residents to maintain their own areas and then awards them for doing so. It is also good to see that there are three awards in each estate size. This is also very helpful for the TidyTowns National Competition as the residents do much needed work for the competition. The adjudicator visited just some of the 42 estates. The Grove, Beatty Park and Primrose Gate being just a sample. Each and all were very well landscaped, neat and tidy and deciding on winners must have been a difficult task for the adjudicators. The town has so many fine housing areas that are not part of new developments and many private houses that are very well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads within the town nameplate signs (the Irish language is welcomed on signs) are all presented to a very high standard. The roundabouts are also well landscaped but one stands out with the Mill wheel layered with planters of summer bedding, looks superb. The verges are neatly presented. The many stone walls also add to the approach. The Donaghcomper wall on the Dublin Road is magnificent, however a hole in this was noted, hopefully it can be repaired before long. The lovely sculptor stone at the gate piers were also noted and admired. The Liffey Bridge, another impressive stone bridge decorated with brightly coloured floral displays, part of the history of the town was admired. Footpaths were in good condition. Road surfaces were generally good and traffic flowed without too many delays.

General Impression:

Celbridge was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. You have done good work for this year's competition and this is evident on entering this town. It is a beautiful historic town and the adjudicator is returning to spend more time in Castletown House. Wishing you continued success in the competition and thank you for participating.