

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CROAGH**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>178</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

From your detailed response to the questionnaire you would appear to have a good working relationship with the relevant local bodies, in particular with West Limerick Resources. The resulting feasibility study will make interesting reading. It is important to have drawn up a plan of action for your village in order to give yourselves a clear direction for tackling the problem areas within the community. Your proposed plans in relation to the restoration to the Abbey, development of a heritage centre and village park are eagerly awaited. Good luck with the same!

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Possibly the best way of approaching this category, would be to get in contact your local environmental groups and experts in order to seek advise on this broad-ranging issue. From there, you can then locate your local wildlife habitats and see what species of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. A good idea would be to involve the local schoolchildren in this program-they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the abundance of wildlife in their local environment.

### LANDSCAPING

The colourful floral displays throughout the village such as the many abundant window boxes filled with petunias and geraniums and in particular that array near the church and telephone boxes, were a delight to behold. Your dedication to the erection of new stone walls around the village is to be commended. In particular those to the Limerick side of Croagh which looked most appealing. The lovely planted bed on the opposite side of the road to the Garden Centre was greatly admired. The graveyard appeared to be a little bit overgrown and neglected. The landscaped area around the grotto with its large bed filled with lavender and roses, looked well although the dead weeds in between the flagstones should be removed. The fountain must be an attractive amenity when in operation. The adjacent stream area goes was quite weedy and a couple of papers were to be seen in the water. Attempts had obviously been made to cut back the banks further along but this section was still quite weedy. A rusty gate in the water (to delineate the grotto area of the stream) looked unfortunate.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

All the commercial and public properties in the village looked well on the day. The Post Office looked extremely fresh and sported attractive window boxes. The public houses of the village should be encouraged to remove any inappropriate signage. The school looked quite fresh and the grounds were well presented. However, the tarmacadamed playground area looked quite bare. The church was also well presented. The old school house beside the library looked particularly appealing in a bright yellow colour. The D&M Garden Centre looked very fresh in vibrant yellow. The Croagh Tavern was in the process of having its facade painted. The grocery shop looked very fetching with its abundance of flowers. All in all a terrific effort by all concerned.

### LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is of vital importance in a village of Croagh's size as every paper is immediately obvious. Litter was apparent to the flower bed at the entrance to D&M, to the side boundary wall near the school and at the steps to grotto/stream area, the area on the opposite bank looked very overgrown with cow parsley in particular .

### TIDINESS

Unfortunately, more work needs to be done in this area. A rusty gate on the left hand side of the Limerick approach looked unfortunate. The perspex and aluminium telephone box was very badly stained. The road sign poles were very rusty as were the gates to the graveyard. The lean-to tin shed against the

Ramble Inn looked quite neglected. The shed opposite the Post Office, partially obscured by the stone wall, could be freshened up and the corrugated metal gate replaced. A lot of weeds were apparent, in particular to the base of stone walls and to the base of the boundary wall to the front of the school playground. The Cappagh junction appeared to have no grass to the verge but a lot of weeds. The forecourt area to the Croagh Tavern would benefit from some landscape treatment in order to soften its somewhat harsh appearance. The area to the rear on the Cappagh road appeared to be quite weedy.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of residential properties in the village was very high indeed and great efforts had obviously been made. The long cottage garden by the side road to the grotto was greatly admired. As was the delightful yellow cottage opposite the Post Office. Either side of the Post Office were noted beautifully kept gardens filled with sweet williams, carnations and foxgloves. The B&B was a positive delight with a colourful garden, roses to the gate piers, hollyhocks and marigolds and high hedges with petunias to the base surrounding it.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads in and surrounding the village looked to be reasonably well maintained on the day. The Limerick/Killarney road on the Limerick side had well cut verges. However, the dead grass had not been cleared. The Croagh sign was twisted over and very grubby.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village of Croagh is one with a fine historical and architectural heritage in the form of its Augustinian Abbey. It looked very well on Adjudication Day and best wishes are extended to you for your future endeavours in the competition.