

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **HOLYCROSS**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	27
Litter Control	40	27
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	190

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Holycross is a much visited village with many thousands travelling to the Abbey and the Garden of Meditation, creating considerable through traffic. The efforts of the committee are obviously getting increasing support from the community and much seems to be happening by way of new development. The new criteria appertaining to the Competition whereby each centre will be required to draft a proper development plan and work programme for a 3/5 year period will help the Holycross committee to co-ordinate the future development and improvement of the village in a structured manner. This development plan should set out your objectives and your programme for each year taking on board specific projects and a realistic work agenda to achieve same. A map/plan did not accompany your entry form this year.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The River Suir is a significant natural amenity for the village - the stocking of same with wild duck, as reported in your entry form was duly noted. A considerable amount of work has gone into developing this amenity and every effort should be made to continue this work on both sides of the River and not just the area around the old mill on the Abbey side, although the work on the island and across from it are going in the right direction. There is potential for even greater nature conservation in the village. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals, bird and fish these attract. Look to your local environmental experts and groups to get involved.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping and planting generally throughout the village are of a good standard. The work on the green is to be commended and the level of maintenance is high. The area around the Abbey - the car-park, grounds, garden of remembrance and adjoining burial grounds, the river-side amenity area are all well maintained. Stone walls are an obvious feature throughout the village, including the bridge and these are being well maintained (except for some walls along both the road out to the Padre Pio Nursing Home and out beyond the La Gave B/B). Tree planting and many mature trees are another feature that contribute to the attractiveness of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment is dominated by the Abbey. This finely restored Cistercian foundation is a major visitor attraction as well as a place of worship and the Church Authority is to be commended on the excellent standard of maintenance and presentation. Elsewhere, the plans to re-develop the Church of Ireland premises were noted. The most commendable Sue Ryder project (39 residences and other facilities for the elderly) is progressing and the construction site does not over intrude on the general appearance of the village. St. Michaels National School and the adjoining Parish Church are well presented. Visitor accommodation in the village - Holycross House overlooking the green and the very attractive Gortnahow farm guesthouse; the La Gave B/B and the former Rent an Irish Cottage self catering development to mention some - are all well maintained. The Abbey Tavern, the Old Abbey Inn, the other pubs; the most attractive stone buildings at the garden centre; the Post Office and nearby shop and petrol station are all equally well maintained. The Padre Pio nursing home is an attractive building (as, indeed, is the large private residence alongside it).

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good in all areas of the village and the weekly pick up is working - the extra litter bins will improve the situation even further.

TIDINESS

The village generally was neat and tidy throughout on the day of adjudication. The area around the road from Ballycahill in the vicinity of the Garda Station and Church of Ireland was the least impressive but work was in progress on tidying up this area which, no doubt, will have the desired effect.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The overall standard of maintenance and presentation of residential property throughout the village is good. The housing development on the Ballycahill road - here individual premises were mostly well kept; the houses overlooking the green; those along the Tipperary road; the Archbishops house and the parochial house are also attractive. The houses in the vicinity of the Post Office and the row of cottages; some very fine houses further out towards the Abbey Tavern and beyond are equally worthy of mention. The residential development out the road past the La Gave B/B.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads to Holycross are mixed in their standard of maintenance and appearance. The grass margins and stone-walls on the approach roads from Thurles and Cashel are well maintained. However, the other approaches from Tipperary, Ballycahill, Galbertstown and Littleton could be improved.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

The overall impression is encouraging and Holycross is maintaining its position in the Competition. The Committee is getting support from the community generally. Visitors to the village and the Abbey should be suitably impressed. Holycross is one of the more attractive villages in Tipperary and the local Tidy Towns Committee and the Community should be proud of their own place.