

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>178</b>

## **Croagh, Co. Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for a very complete and detailed questionnaire which was accompanied by the feasibility report for the village commissioned by the community council via the West Limerick Resource Group. The number involved in your committee indicates that all sections of Croagh community are represented, this is to be welcomed. The village improvements report is a very progressive thinking document and it will be interesting to see how it positively impacts over the years ahead. This is an excellent example of forward thinking by a small community.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The village is quite compact just off the busy Limerick/Killarney Road. All buildings, both commercial and private, were presented to a very high standard so congratulations to the property owners concerned. The Church and School were very clean if a little lacking in colourful landscaping. The Carnegie Free Library and Old School were delightful in colours of mustard and black. The PO and DAM Garden Centre deserve praise for the manner in which they were presented with abundance of colour in both instances. The Grocer Shop was eye-catching with lovely colour combinations. Both The Croagh Tavern and The Ramble Inn were freshly painted. All in all, the standard was very good in this category.

### **LANDSCAPING**

As mentioned in the previous section the colour in the village was magnificent. This was primarily due to the abundance of flowers of all varieties displayed in window boxes, hanging baskets and tubs. There were some delightful gardens, most notably the PO as well as a number of private ones. The Grotto, which is a focal point in the village, had a good mix of colour and greenery. D&M had an excellent garden and frontage; unfortunately the green area with shrub bed across from it looked a little forlorn and needs to be revitalised.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The village improvement plan has outlined what is proposed under the section entitled Village Park Proposals. This may be the ideal location to develop a wildlife project of substance as well as identifying other wildlife habitats in and around the village. As part of the process the committee should engage the services of a person with experience of environmental issues and seek his or her advice on how to put together a simple plan that can be implemented in a practical way. The guidance sheet from CVI which was circulated to all Committees this year will also be of help.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

As was stated in last year's report litter control is vital in a village

the size of Croagh. On adjudication day, there was virtually no litter except a few wrappers adjacent to the entrance to the graveyard. Ensure that you have sufficient litter bins.

## **TIDINESS**

This is a sector where the village needs to improve. There a number of unsightly areas that need to be addressed as quickly as possible. As you approach from Adare there is a farmer's gate and cattle pen that could be improved upon. Weeds were evident at the base of the stonewall and also the field inside the wall was overgrown with thistles. The Croagh Tavern sign on the main road was very grubby and at the very least should be hosed down. The road signs were rather tatty and there was evidence of old posters on poles. It is important that the committee keep on top of the problem.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this sector was very high and full marks to all residents for the effort they have put in. The Cottage up from the Grotto with the lovely long garden was delightful as was the house with stone walls and neatly trimmed lawns. The houses on either side of the PO were once again vibrant with colourful flowers and shrubs.

## **ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The approach roads were in good condition, being well maintained with margins cut and hedgerows trimmed. The road from Adare, which had a nice stonewall, had a section where trees were planted that was slightly untidy. The Cappagh road was in good condition as was the entrance as one approached from Rathkeale.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The village committee has involved all sections of the community in their efforts to achieve results in the Tidy Towns Competition. These efforts have been responded to in a positive manner by the residents. Croagh is a pleasant village with a historical past in the form of an Augustinian Abbey dating back to 12th century. The proposed improvements plan is to be welcomed and no doubt Croagh will benefit in the years ahead.