

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CROSSMOLINA**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	14
Litter Control	40	16	16
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>174</b>

## **Crossmolina, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Crossmolina is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for your completed application and excellent sketch map, the latter was very helpful to the adjudicator. Your many landscaped areas throughout the town are perhaps your strongest point in the competition. All of the entrances to the town from approach roads are marked by landscaped areas, well done, this creates a very good first and lasting impression.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The buildings at the top of the Ballycastle road where one turns into the town centre are unfortunate for the appearance of the town as they are some of the first buildings to be encountered and are therefore instrumental in creating a first impression of Crossmolina. It is good to note that you have made representations to the County Council in relation to derelict buildings, well done. Could the visual effect of the backs and gable walls of these buildings be mitigated in some way as an interim measure? Perhaps grow a fast growing climbing plant such as Russian Vine might be considered. The long stretch of grey roadside boundary walls which incorporate the road frontage of St. Tiernans College seriously needs some cleaning or painting. The church is looking somewhat weatherstained together with its boundary wall. The school boundary wall needs some attention also. The Garda station and its adjoining residential property looks extremely well and it is a pleasure to note that all of the traditional features of these buildings have been retained. The gentle colour scheme of muted pastel colours are a very attractive feature of the built environment of Crossmolina. A long boundary wall to a residential property in Abbey Town needs to be repainted. This is located directly across from the linear green marking the entrance.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The long grass between the shrubbery and the roadside edge on the left hand side on entering from the Ballycastle road is hiding the shrubbery. This is unfortunate given the amount of hard work that goes into this setting of landscaped areas. The landscaped verge with its seasonal shrubs and stands of young trees together with nameplate on the Ballina road was beautifully presented for adjudication, well done. Young trees along the Castlebar entrance are maturing nicely whilst the shrubberies have become well established and look especially well. The long grass should be cleared from the base of the ivy which has been planted along the concrete block wall opposite the graveyard as the ivy will probably prosper better.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Well done on the channeling of the river Deal in order for fish to run during the summer months, this is a very worthwhile undertaking. Being located on a river and also being so close to the mountains means that there is plenty of scope for you to take on further wildlife projects. Do keep us informed of your activities in this regard and refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook which you received this summer for further ideas / suggestions under this heading. The river walk and banks look particularly well. Lighting here is a great addition. Unfortunately during adjudication, the litter bins were full to overflowing which detracted a little from an otherwise superb piece of work. Keep up the effort regarding signage on buildings. The 'Dry Cleaners' sign at the Ballycastle end of the village looks especially bad. As the climbing plants to the roadside boundary to the sports grounds mature, they will enhance this entrance to the town even further. The small riverside park is a credit to those responsible. The adjudicator tried very hard not to notice the weed growth at the base of its roadside boundary wall.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control appeared to be weakest at the Castlebar entrance to the town on the town side of St. Tiernans College, otherwise it was reasonably good. Your work in conjunction with the national schools on riverbank, approach road and church yard has made a major contribution to litter management. Keep us informed of your other activities.

## **TIDINESS**

An undeveloped site at the top of the town near the Ballycastle entrance is untidy. The Belmullet entrance suffers under this heading due to the undeveloped site located before the garage and the untidy area to the side of the garage.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Some boundary walls to residential properties at the entrance to the town centre from the Ballina road look poor, they need to be either cleaned or repainted / whitewashed. The situation regarding absentee owners and lack of maintenance is unfortunate. Hopefully you will get some help from Mayo County Council.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

It is a pleasure to note the wirescape free section of road between the bridge and the statue to Our Lady. Are there plans to extend the undergrounding of service cables and the replacement of service poles with attractive lampstandards throughout the rest of the town centre. The wirescape in the town centre from the Castlebar road into the Marion Shrine

looks particularly bad. The nameplate on the Lake road needs to be repainted. Some of your litter bins need refurbishment. The Davis Grocery and Bar located at the bridge should always be presented to a high standard because it occupies such an important site in the overall townscape. The forty mile an hour speed limit sign on the left of the Bellmullet approach road seriously needs cleaning. The new stone wall and name plaque at the cemetery looks very well.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Crossmolina is an attractive town and it is a pleasure to visit on any occasion. The landscaping of the entrance from the Bellmullet Road will make a big difference.