

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	27
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205	197

Holycross, Tipperary N.R.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Holycross continues to impress. There is a commitment by the Committee and the entire community to its continued improvement and enhancement - obviously in partnership with the Local Authority and other development Agencies. The project at present under way of providing a Monastic Museum in the old St. Mary's Church is commendable. No actual plan was submitted with your entry form and we would suggest that a 3/5 year plan be drawn up in order to identify your main objectives and methods of putting same in place.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Cistercian Abbey dominates the village and is very well maintained with pleasant and well laid out grounds. The School is also well maintained and planted. Business premises such as the Abbey Tavern, the Post Office, Hayes Shop, Skehans Bar and the Abbey Inn all contribute. Holycross Cottages were looking well but the lanterns in the grounds here needed attention. Also, some stone walls on the Littleton approach needed rebuilding. However, the many stone walls throughout the village are mostly well maintained.

LANDSCAPING

The triangular grassed areas with tree planting in the village were immaculate on the day of adjudication. Planting in a number of areas such as opposite the School and near the Post Office was admired. Also, the hanging baskets on the bridge and at the pump were noted - be careful not to over prettify. The new landscaping at the old quarry on the Tipperary road, eliminating a blackspot here, deserves special praise. The adjudicator ate in the picnic area by the river and appreciated its facilities and also the bird life on view during lunch.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your work in connection with maintaining and providing wild life habitats was noted.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter to be seen on the day of adjudication and the provision of extra litter bins and the engagement of a collection contractor is obviously working. The large barrels used for litter collection around the Abbey grounds are probably effective. However, perhaps a more appropriate type of container could be used in this heritage

sensitive area.

TIDINESS

The village was mostly neat and tidy throughout but on the Ballycahill approach there was quite an amount of kerbside weed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses in the village and on the approach roads are contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. No doubt new houses in the course of construction will be encouraged to complete their premises and surrounds to a high standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Mostly good with some work needed on verges here and there. In regard to signage, the top of the speed sign on the Ballycahill approach was broken, one of the signs for Holycross Abbey at the triangular grass area needed to be cleaned thoroughly, two very poor signs for the Garden and Craft centre were in place opposite the Abbey Inn and on the ground near the signposts on the triangle at the Tipperary approach and the sign for the River Suir next to the pump had graffiti on it. Some poles also needed painting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village where the residents obviously appreciate their heritage. We look forward to seeing further progress in the years ahead.