

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CROOM**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	--
The Built Environment	40	24	--
Landscaping	40	25	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	--
Litter Control	40	22	--
Tidiness	20	11	--
Residential Areas	30	22	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	171	--

Croom, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed entry form and indeed its is good to see Croom re entering the Competition after an absence of six years.

I would suggest that the Committee put together a 3-year work plan to be submitted with next year's entry.

This could act as a precursor to a possible application to Limerick County Council for an Urban Renewal programme, which would regenerate the town.

Also it would make the job of the adjudicator that bit easier if a sketch map of the town was also included whereby he or she could readily identify boundaries and other places of both historical and general interest.

I would encourage the Committee to develop good relationships with both the County Council and other relevant agencies

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The adjudicator visited Croom on what one could only say was an extremely busy day traffic wise.

Older residents of places like Croom and New Market on Fergus probably never envisaged that they would witness such traffic bedlam that now exists in both places. Unfortunately in the case of Croom this is further compounded by the high level of dust created by construction traffic from the nearby bypass. It is only fair to take this into consideration when judging this category, as many premises were not seen at their best because of dust residue. Every town or village has its own uniqueness. Croom Mills and the River Maigue are the focal points of Croom and indeed not very many towns have such impressive features. On the negative side Croom has far too much examples of dereliction but despite this problem there are excellent examples of traditional rural town streetscape and architecture. That's why it is important for the Committee to a) draw up a work plan and b) try to encourage all sections of the community to become involved in the Tidy Towns effort. I could go on to highlight examples of well presented premises and dereliction alike suffice to say that there is a lot of work to be done under this category. If a few areas of dereliction were tackled by next year that would be very good progress.

LANDSCAPING

Trees and shrubs are the most important plants in the urban landscape and Croom has potential in this respect, as they are a number of effective planting arrangements to be seen around the town. St Mary's Park has not been fully

developed in a landscaping context, it is a very impressive town amenity but needs to be revitalised and further planting arrangements will help to do this. There were nice examples of Copper beech and Variegated Poplar at St Senans Terrace and also at Elm Park. Croom Mills had an excellent shrub and flower display

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are a number of areas on the river bank and in St Mary's Park that could be selected for a wildlife project. I would suggest that the Committee get in touch with the Local Authority environmental Section and seek advice on how to approach such a project. Both Primary and Post Primary Schools could be approached to become involved and in this way you get the youth interested in the well being of the town

LITTER CONTROL

This is an area that needs immediate attention, as there was quite a lot of litter evident on adjudication day. Allowances have to be made for the fact that the Town has such a volume of passing traffic. Consult with the Local Authority to get information on good litter control and anti litter initiatives under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

TIDINESS

It is important that an awareness programme, outlining the key issues under this category, be put in place. Emphasis should be put on the need for ongoing control of weed growth, the elimination of fly posting-things like the placing of commercial advertising on trees should not be tolerated. There is a need for more litter bins around the town – this could be done by joint partnership of local authority and business premises.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this sector was a little mixed, some residential areas very good some not so good. St Senans Terrace was well kept and there is scope for further improvement in the years ahead. Elm Park was very well presented and complemented by some pleasant planting arrangements. In any urban renewal project for Croom, the row of town houses in High Street could benefit by retaining the original features and brightening them up with appropriate colours.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The two main entrances into the town were well presented even allowing for the density of traffic. A number of other

entrances most notably Manister/Bruff could be improved upon but this is something that the Committee can address prior to next year

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is encouraging to see Croom back in the competition and hopefully that it will make progress in the years ahead. It will take time but once the will is there success will come to such a historical town on the banks of the River Maigue. Keep up the good work.