

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CRAANFORD**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	--
The Built Environment	40	30	--
Landscaping	40	29	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	--
Litter Control	40	30	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	22	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	210	--

Craanford, County Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Craanford, a small, extraordinarily well-endowed community in North Wexford, is warmly welcomed to the Tidy Towns Movement. It has made a most auspicious start based on its splendid attributes and energetic activities. Thank you for the splendidly executed and easy-to-read map of the centre indicating, in colour, the various items of interest, your aspirations for the future and achievements to date. Like all rural villages, it has a requirement to create a clear-cut divide point between the surrounding, rural area and the village proper. This is readymade for it by the small bridge giving access to the village from the main road, while at the other end the 30 mph signs, coupled with the road widening at the GAA ground serves the same purpose. There may be a case to reposition the village nameplate. Enjoying an historic mill, a church, community centre, sports field, two pubs and a school, the centre is very well served and has a range of facilities greater than most of comparable size. New dwellings are, of course, under construction, while it is noted that the school is seeking planning permission for additional classrooms. Clearly, the attractions of Craanford are increasingly recognised.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The random rubble exterior wall and the general high level of presentation delightfully set off the Craanford Mill, an attraction in its own right. William Doyle's pub, a thatched cottage style structure, was delightful with hanging baskets accentuating its attractiveness. The post offices sign has not yet been installed appropriately. The large Catholic Church with its enclosed parking area is a strong element in the built environment. The 1943 school was very well presented. The strong, robust nameplate, Kavanagh's Crane Hire is a very positive element.

LANDSCAPING

The absolutely delightful new River Park is a gem and all associated with this imaginative project are applauded. The very creative use of the stream, picnic tables and careful choice of plants, all set off by the planting on the other side of the road is a joy. Backing onto the 1798 Memorial Park, the totality is a strong, positive success. The gardens of the Craanford Mill were very well presented.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The retention of wild flowers and berries within the new River Park creates a natural and suitably located wildlife

habitat with immediate access to the surrounding rural area. It is encouraging bird life with all its positive attributes. Individual, incidental areas, throughout the village have a like potential. The promotion of wildlife and the creation of appropriate habitats within centres are now seen as important adjuncts to the activities of the Tidy Towns Committee. It is recommended that a suitable programme of potential sites, together with a development plan in respect of some of them, at least, be incorporated in your updated Five Year Programme. The planting of native, suitable berry-bearing shrubs at appropriate locations will do much to attract colourful bird life to the area.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter management within the centre was of a high order. We welcome the provision of sensibly sized, litter bins in the Aqua Park. Throughout the centre, with special reference to the Community Centre and School there were very minor amounts of litter only.

TIDINESS

In general this small community exudes a sense of order and neatness, with perhaps one or two points still requiring attention. At places, there continues to be weeds in the front of entrances and at the base of front facing walls. We welcome the Recycle for Life in the school car park. The old petrol pumps at Johnny Cooney's pub – which appear to be no longer required – should, if we are correct, be removed. Finally, at the Community Centre end of the village the nameplate is slightly obscured by overgrowth.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Housing stock in the village is limited but very well presented. Please ensure that new, additional housing maintains the same street line and complete their boundary fencing to strengthen the sense of enclosure of the streetscape itself.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads and side roads are neat and orderly and the verges were appropriately cut back for a rural village. The divide line between the road proper and the area in front of the Community Centre, could, with advantage, be more clearly defined.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village of Craanford is very much welcomed into the Tidy Towns programme and its splendid presentation to date is warmly applauded. Few centres of comparable size are endowed with such a range of facilities and, clearly, a

collective communal determination to present themselves to the best possible degree. The centre, quite simply, is a gem and all involved and associated with its quality presentation are applauded for their efforts and urged to give attention to the few items listed in this report.