

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	223	219

Holycross, County Tipperary

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for submitting completed entry form, together with Area development plan.

A sketch map would have been welcome, as it would have allowed the adjudicator to identify areas within the village and the surrounds quicker.

The area development plan is a comprehensive document, which outlines what needs to be done over the next few years, but it seems to be a recommendation document only. A yearly target list would give more focus to the plan and at least it would serve as a measurement tool. For instance when is the Toll Stone and Foot Bridge be put in place.

You seem to have harnessed a lot of goodwill from the community by way of sponsorship and also relationships with the relevant local authority Tipperary NR and other agencies seems to be very good.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard of presentation of all buildings public, private, church, historical, and commercial was quite high with a few minor exceptions. The Old Church of Ireland when fully renovated will become an excellent Community Amenity so well done on this initiative. Scoil Micheal Naofa was in excellent condition, pleasant green area with planted trees and a unique rockery. It was also very refreshing to see both the flags of Ireland and EU flying.

The Cistercian Abbey is place of both religious historical interest and also a tourist attraction, it was in splendid condition on the day of adjudication.

The following commercial premises deserve mention for the manner in which they are presented Skehans Bar, Hayes with its old shopfront, Creanes Shop and The Old Abbey Inn.

The Sue Ryder Residential Homes with surrounding grounds and the Padre Pio Nursing Home were immaculate as was the very impressive archbishops and parochial house. The water park amenity with the village pump on the banks of the Suir was well maintained and is nice feature that one identifies with the village of Holycross. The Rent an Irish Cottage scheme in the village is probably the best maintained of the remaining schemes in the region, so well done to the caretaker in question.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping and planting arrangements in and around the

village especially at the junction of Cashel/Tipperary/Thurles were of a good standard and give a good impression as one enters Holycross. The baskets on the bridge over the Suir need to be tended to and re filled, these are very colourful when at their best. The Abbey and the adjoining car park, burial grounds and river amenity deserve special mention. The green area and flowerbed on the Littleton Road was admired for its simplicity. Many private residences were in excellent condition with some excellent rose beds to be viewed.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES.

The provision of a wildlife identification board is a worthwhile initiative and a start on the road to a wildlife project of significance, seek out the opinion of a local wildlife enthusiast and involve children from the local school. The fact that the River Suir is base to swans and mallard duck is a huge plus in this category.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control was acceptable although there were some pockets of litter to be seen at a few points. Also the stone bin across the way from Community Centre car park was overturned. Hopefully the weekly clean up programme will identify this and it will be restored to an upright position.

TIDINESS

The overall impression was that this was a neat and tidy village, with no graffiti or unsightly fly posting. The signage was excellently maintained in most instances but there was little farm activity residue at some of the kerb sides. The graveyard around the Old Protestant Church on the Ballycahill side of the village is very overgrown and untidy. The cobblestone paths around the car park and abbey area tend to attract weed growth and should be treated regularly.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Local Authority development off the Cashel Road was well maintained with communal area in good condition. The standard of presentation of terrace of houses on the Ballycahill Road was a little mixed; the committee should liase with owners to make improvements. The village boasts some very fine private dwellings and some new ones under construction. All in all the overall standard in this category was very good.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard of approach roads was quite good, verges were cut back appropriately and the road surfaces were very even. Approach roads from Cashel, Thurles and Tipperary Town were in top condition with some impressive dwellings and a fairly large number of new ones under construction. The Littleton and Ballaycahill Roads were also good, signs were visible and back areas were viewable and tidy.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The committee have made great efforts to address a few problematic areas that have arisen over the years. Holycross probably attracts more outside visitors than any other similar sized village in the Country certainly in Tipperary. The area development plan needs to be broken down into time related projects over the 3-year period.

The Village has done very well in the competition over the last few years, so it's important that the Committee of 12 keep up the good work.