

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Croghan**

Ref: **583**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **169**

Category: **A**

Date: **21/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	
The Built Environment	40	24	
Landscaping	40	20	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	
Litter Control	40	28	
Tidiness	20	11	
Residential Areas	30	18	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	
General Impression	10	5	
TOTAL MARK	300	169	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Croghan is welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application and your excellent map. We note with interest that a plan has been prepared for the village by Roscommon County Council, you should send in details of this plan with next years competition, and don't forget to put together a Tidy Towns work programme and submit this also. Croghan village enjoys an excellent rural location in an area of lush pasture land and appears to have been part of an estate. It has an interesting layout and the Catholic Church fronting onto the road is attractive. Many stone walls on approach roads and in the village centre are a characteristic feature of Croghan. We note from your application form that the committee has been successful at fund raising for the Tidy Towns initiative and has also been successful in achieving Rural Renewal Scheme Status. Congratulations. It is good to note the support that the committee enjoys from the business community and the local GAA club together with residents. Well done. We wish you every success in the years to come.

The Built Environment:

The village boasts two handsome churches, the Church of the Holy Trinity and the Roman Catholic church. Both enjoy prominent locations within the village which gives Croghan a strong sense of place. The Catholic church building is beginning to look a little bit weather stained and some work may be needed over the next few years. The small site across from the Church of the Holy Trinity which is probably used for parking should be finished off nicely. The school enjoys a great location

and together with both churches can be viewed from approach roads. More could be achieved for its presentation if it were freshly painted together with its boundary walls. The creamery "Connaught Gold Co-op Stores" is well presented but some retaining walls here could be cleaned or painted. A few buildings on the eastern entrance to the village (the Elphin road) could be upgraded, some rusted roofs were noted to an out building on the western entrance.

Landscaping:

The rookeries in the village were admired, well done, they should improve as they mature. Be vigilant regarding their maintenance. Newly planted trees are becoming well established and we look forward to their maturation. Stands of mature trees around the village behind stone walls which were probably part of the estate look quite magnificent and are a characteristic feature of Croghan. Grass verges on approach roads and in the village tend to be badly maintained in many cases, they were either over grown or eroded along their roadside edges or discoloured from weed killer. This is an important visual element of the village which will need to be improved. We note with interest your wish to develop the Pound for amenity and look forward to the fruits of your work over the coming years.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No doubt the environs of Croghan are rich in flora and fauna, perhaps a survey of woodland habitats might be undertaken and potential threats in face of future development identified and planned for. Walks could be developed to Sli na Slainte standard up Croghan Hill and sign posted from the village. Congratulations on the cleaning out of streams and ponds, perhaps a survey of wildlife here might be appropriate also. The sports grounds (Shannon gaols) looked well.

Litter Control:

Your anti litter poster competition for school children appears to have been successful as the village was very clean during adjudication. Well done also on participating in the National Spring Clean Week. If you organise litter picking activities we would be interested to hear about these.

Tidiness:

There are quite a few problems of untidiness in the village. A number of semi-derelict or derelict / vacant buildings were noted. It is important to keep these as tidy as possible until redevelopment. They can be made to look attractive if their window and door apertures are boarded up and maintained brightly painted. Another problem under this heading is the unsightly field boundary beside the school and ditches at a number of locations that need to be cleared of over growth and perhaps reseeded.

Residential Areas:

The majority of residential properties are beautifully presented and occupy their sites in a visually unobtrusive way. Encourage residents to be vigilant regarding roadside areas to their boundary walls.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As noted above grass verges in many cases need to be levelled and reseeded and straightened road side edges created. Attention has already been drawn to field boundaries and ditches. Well done on the refurbishment of stone walls throughout the village and on approach roads, this is no small achievement. "The White Gate" and the adjoining fencing needs to be cleaned and or painted. A service pole at the western end of the village with wires radiating in several directions should be removed and cables ducted. Your new lamp standards have been noted, well done on the ducting on many stretches of service cable. Name plates and sign posts for the most part looked well,

particularly the new name stone on the eastern entrance. Some posts of speed limit signs need to be refurbished. The one near the creamery springs to mind immediately.

General Impression:

Croghan village has strong character with a number of important buildings, a good layout and a pleasing street escape all of which give a strong sense of place. A lot of good work has been noted which has been accomplished for the village however greater attention to detail is necessary. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for guidelines on how to organise the Tidy Towns Initiative in your village.