

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Holycross**

Ref: **453**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **228**

Category: **B**

Date: **05/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	228	223

Overall Developmental Approach:

Holycross Development Association has rather a large committee of twelve. Your plans for the village's future certainly seem sensible and attractive ones, those being the restoration of the mill, the restoration of the toll stone with its associated history, creating walkways along the riverside and providing a footbridge over the river. We look forward to seeing your new three to five year plan with next year's submission.

The Built Environment:

The attractive church on the Thurles Road with its grassy space to the front was admired. The Sue Ryder Complex and grounds were beautifully maintained. The national school looked extremely good with its well maintained grounds and magnificent rockery to the front. It also sported some cheerful window boxes. The Abbey looked extremely well, as did the many pubs of the village - namely the Abbey Tavern, the Old Abbey Inn, Skehan's and Hayes'.

Landscaping:

The large village green is quite simply maintained. Perhaps some additional tree planting could be considered in this location. The grassy areas to the Tipperary Road, with permanent planting to the rear, is quite solid and permanent looking. The village pump is simply presented. There are

certainly a large number of landscaped areas to maintain and the creation of further landscaped areas would seem rather superfluous. You should concentrate on further developing those that you already have. It was good to note that you have adopted a policy of simply presented landscaping, rather than gilding the lily by innumerable (and superfluous) hanging baskets and window boxes.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The attractive riverside area and bridge looked well. Its a most peaceful area with its attractive seating and gravel. These materials are most suitable for this sort of location. A bird nest was spotted in the wall of a house opposite the abbey.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was generally good, although there were one or two problem areas. One or two papers were noted along the Thurles Road and also on the Cashel approach road. The wickerwork bins to the courtyard of the abbey are in bad condition.

Tidiness:

A number of broken walls on the Thurles Road looked unfortunate. The flag poles in the car park of the Abbey should be painted before next year's competition. It was noted that the emergency life-ring at the riverside area adjacent to the mill was missing. The restoration of the mill wheel will be a worthwhile project. It was disappointing to note an old political poster still attached to a pole in the village centre. However, these are all minor issues as the village generally looked very neat and tidy on the day.

Residential Areas:

Houses and gardens in the village centre and along approach roads generally looked well. The terraced houses are unusual and extremely well maintained. The Rent-an-Irish thatched cottages contribute well to this category of the competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Thurles Road the verges had been well maintained and the hedgerows cut back. The Tipperary Road also sported well maintained verges and hedgerows. The relatively new ash trees to one side of the road are coming along, and the more mature trees to the other side were greatly admired. In terms of signage, those in the vicinity of the river could be improved upon.

General Impression:

Holy Cross is a most attractive centre which attracts a large number of visitors. Much work has been done to maintain it to the highest (and appropriately simple) standard possible. Well done to all concerned and good luck with your future plans.