

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Craanford**

Ref: **628**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **229**

Category: **A**

Date: **06/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>225</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Craanford Tidy Towns Committee is obviously a very enthusiastic one, with much energy and a high level of support, both financial and practical, from the local community. The adjudicator would like to take this opportunity to sympathise with the committee on the loss of your chairman. You show a keen interest in the village's heritage, particularly in relation to the thatched cottages and old mill. Your map was most useful on adjudication day. Perhaps your extremely comprehensive responses to the competition questionnaire could be developed into a three to five year work programme which would facilitate both yourselves and adjudicators in years to come.

### The Built Environment:

The restored mill is a distinct focus for the village, dating from the 17th century it is of distinct historical and cultural significance. It would be even more attractive if thatched, as it presumably was originally. Perhaps you could investigate the possibility of grants for funding in order to restore it to its former glory and maintain it thus. The post office was well maintained. The church looked magnificent in its prominent location with beautifully maintained grounds and surrounding graveyard. W. Doyle's is an attractive thatched premises. The small school was well maintained, although its gates should be painted before next year's competition. The community hall was quite fresh and a lot of work had taken place to the car park areas - the adjudicator admired the landscaped areas both inside and outside the boundary of the community field. The planted beds on top of dry stone walling along the streetscape of the village was greatly admired.

## **Landscaping:**

The aqua park opened by President McAlesse is a fine asset to the village and is beautifully maintained, with its bridge over the small stream and dry stone walling with attractive picnic area. You show a great enthusiasm for tree planting, taking full advantage of Wexford County Council's tree scheme. The magnificent trees behind the stone wall, to the roadside leading up to the church, were admired - perhaps some landscaping to the front car park area to the church would somewhat soften its harsh appearance.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The adjudicator was pleased to note your work in regard to planting berry-producing trees and shrubs, taking particular note to plant native species. Perhaps you could consider making visitors aware of the local wildlife in the area and incorporating it with your Slí na Sláinte walk.

## **Litter Control:**

Your approach to litter control, by means of not providing litter bins in public areas, seems strange. But it seems to be paying off - very few papers or litter was evident even at traditionally problem areas.

## **Tidiness:**

There was evidence of a high level of maintenance on adjudication day with much activity taking place.

## **Residential Areas:**

Your involvement in the design of the Bun na Leascaí community care houses is commendable. You are showing a commendable concern that they should be in-keeping with the character of the village. The adjudicator noted the ongoing work to the restoration of the thatched cottage opposite the church.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Approach roads and the village centre was well maintained. Particularly, the streetscape leading from the park to the church, which was of a very high standard.

## **General Impression:**

Craanford has been at a very high standard of the competition for a number of years. It has its own unique charm of a working farming village, set in magnificent scenery. The enthusiastic committee's work is evidently paying off!

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

It was pleasing to see a lawn mower, strimmer, shovel and wheel barrow in use during our second visit. While all the amenity areas had been well cared for the approach roads with tall weeds were in need of strimming. The weed free stone walls and kerbsides at the bridge were favourably noted. You clearly recognise that the river is an important element of the village. Litter control was disappointing this time! Perhaps you need to pay more attention to detail and achieving consistency. For instance weedy forecourts and yards detract considerably from planted beds, this was particularly noted along by the GAA grounds. It was wonderful to see the continuance of the local craft of thatching!.

