

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Crinkle**

Ref: **299**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **186**

Category: **C**

Date: **03/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	18	17
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	20	18
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	186	182

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of your work programme. The illustrated map was most helpful on adjudication day, bearing in mind your centre is quite spread out. You have made good progress in recent years and your phased plan will enable you to progress further in the years ahead. The ideal is to match your aims with your energy and keep your targets reasonable. The whole concept of Tidy Towns is patience and sustained effort over a lengthy period. Build on your strengths and bring the community with you in your endeavours. Congratulations on your success in winning an award from Offaly Co. Council.

The Built Environment:

Well done on the new footpath at GAA grounds. This should now be grassed between the path and the road. Buildings praised last year looked well again this year. The approach to Polydone Greenhouse is impressive. The renowned Thatch is excellent and provides a great favourable image for the village. The treatment of the car park here is good and the new footpaths opposite near the school will enhance further. The school is well presented.

Landscaping:

You have numerous areas that are ideal for landscaping throughout the village and beyond. Tree

planting of previous years is now paying dividend and each generation should plant for the next generation. In selecting your tree species ensure they are appropriate to the environment. Also, if planting a series of trees plant similar species for best effect. Crinkle is well capable of accommodating tree planting on an ongoing basis, so you should allow for tree planting each winter. There are some massive mature trees on the approach from Birr that are precious to the overall environment, so you should treasure these. You should select three or four open spaces for the development of a flower bed, preferably on the approach roads and generate high colour. As the village is widespread it needs a more defining image, so flower beds strategically located would achieve this.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The village has some wonderful wildflowers in abundance and you should promote and cultivate this further. Liaising with the school authorities in the promotion of wildlife will prove successful and generate interest. As mentioned last year, you should consider erecting a display board outlining the popular wildlife of the area. Indeed cemeteries are ideal locations for wildlife also.

Litter Control:

You have raised your mark here and the village was relatively litter free on adjudication day. Litter control is everybody's business and many Tidy Towns centres fall down in tackling this problem successfully. Periodic clean-ups will prove beneficial in highlighting litter problems, and they are ideal community projects.

Tidiness:

You have a problem with untidiness because of the inordinate amount of dereliction, broken walls, unattended open spaces and poorly finished developments. While Grants industry is well presented, the yard environs are untidy. The unfinished development at the Terrace roundabout needs attention. You should also paint the Military wall gates a strong colour and highlight their importance. A short chronology of the barracks on an illustrated display board would be of great interest to visitors.

Residential Areas:

There is some good individual effort at Hawthorn Drive: this is a well planned estate. It might be better if the low boundary fencing was removed completely and give an open space effect to the estate. The Terrace would benefit from some fresh painting, but this is really a matter for the residents. With regards to housing estates they should be named and clearly identified with attractive bilingual signs. Main Street is impressive and the shops are, for the most part, well presented, although some signage is excessive in size. For next year you should concentrate on the Main Street and raise the standard of landscaping and litter control. Again, we would appeal for boundary walls to be kept clean and freshly painted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You would benefit from more directional signs to Crinkle and for a greater identity of the village. The many roads leading to the village make maintenance difficult, but it is a matter for the Local Authority to keep streets and footpaths in good condition. Back areas are now an important part of the competition, so you should encourage owners to keep their back areas clean and tidy, especially those with a clear view from the public road.

General Impression:

You can be well pleased with your performance and you are progressing. Adhere to your five-year plan and try and bring the community with you in your work. You should also liaise closely with

other agencies and get maximum support from all sections of the community. We look forward to continued progress.