Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Holycross** Ref: **260**

County: **Tipperary North** Mark: **230**

Category: **B** Date: **18/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	**300**	**230**	**228**

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submitting completed application form.
It would have been an advantage to the adjudicator if both a basic action plan and sketch map were included as well.
That aside the Committee, down from twelve to eight, has succeeded in gaining the goodwill of the greater community by way of sponsorship and support for fund raising efforts.
Relationships with the local authority and other statutory bodies seems to be strong and now is the time to involve these bodies in drawing up a revised action plan for the Village

The Built Environment:

The standard of presentation of both public and private buildings was good and the improvements in the form of picnic area in the green benefit the Village greatly.
The Sue Ryder Centre was extremely well maintained and a credit to the people entrusted with its upkeep.
The Cistercian Abbey and grounds which are synonymous with the religious history of this country were presented in an acceptable manner.
The public lighting add to the ambience of the village.
The restored Old Church of Ireland is a fine amenity for the benefit of the local community and both the Catholic Church and National School were well kept.

The personnel responsible for the upkeep of these public buildings also deserve praise for their efforts.
Commercial and private premises were all presented to a good standard some with colourful window boxes and front gardens.

It is good to see that old shop fronts are still retained,the owners of Hayes Bar are to be commended for this.
Overall the standard in this category was good as there seems to have been a few improvements over the last few years.

Landscaping:

The shrub and flower beds dotted around the village and on the periphery were in the process of being tidied up,weeded,and annuals planted on adjudication day.
In a few weeks the fruits of this effort will be visible.
The baskets on the bridge over the Suir were very colourful and in full bloom.
I would concur with the sentiments expressed by last year's adjudicator that the Committee should concentrate on developing what is already in place in stead of adding more planting areas.
At this juncture I should mention that the standard and quality of planting arrangements of private residences was top class.Overall a strong performance in this category.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The initiative to upgrade the wildlife habitat on the Tipperary Limerick road was noted.
The River Suir is a natural habitat for mallard duck and swans and more should be made of it.
The application made no reference to any wildlife project for the future,now would be the ideal time to plan for next year and get the local schoolchildren involved. Advice should be sought from a local wildlife enthusiast or indeed the County Council environmental officer.

Litter Control:

Effective litter control involves cooperation of all sections of the community so it is good to see that there is an enthusiastic response to the Committees weekly clean up call.
Also it is important to impart the message of good litter control to schoolchildren who in turn will be the adults of years to come.
On adjudication day there was very little litter evident and bins were positioned in central parts of the village.

Tidiness:

The standard of tidiness was quite good ,very little weed growth, no graffiti except for some posters left over from election period.Both directional and name signs were well maintained.
There was a some farm activity residue but this is to be expected at this time of year.
It is good to note from your application that the CEScheme is still intact,indeed this has been a major contributor to both the upkeep and development of many small villages and towns around the country.

Residential Areas:

The estate on the Cashel Road was well presented with the open area clean and tidy,similarly the terrace of houses on the Ballycahill Road were improved upon since two years back.
The Rent an Irish Cottages and surrounding areas were very well maintained by the occupants. I

presume that most of these properties are now in permanent ownership.
Holycross has some very fine new private dwellings all of which have added to the character of the Village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

It was noted that the Committee has encouraged residents to keep back areas that are visible as one enters the village neat and tidy. These words of encouragement have been heeded as for the most part all were well presented.
Most Signs were visible and basically maintained which is all one expects.
The broken wall up to the Padre Pio nursing home was noted and it is hoped that this can be renovated and made good.
The Littleton Road entrance name sign is obscured by a little overgrowth, it would worthwhile if the committee could resolve this and maybe ask the Council to put a new shrub/flower bed adjacent to the sign.
Last years adjudicator commented that the signs near the river could be improved upon, nothing much has happened since last year,maybe it is possible to take action prior to next years competition.

General Impression:

Holycross is a very pleasant village to visit at anytime of year
It has a monastic history and thus attracts large numbers of visitors possibly for meditative purposes as well as its attractive layout
The Committee is working very hard at involving all other organizations in the parish to ensure that they contribute meaningfully to the upkeep of the Village.
This type of action is paying dividends as Holycross has performed very well in the Tidy Towns competition to date.
Keep up the good work.