

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Craanford**

Ref: **200**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **237**

Category: **A**

Date: **27/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	35	33
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	237	229

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form which was most useful on adjudication day. Your County Council, WORD and the local community are to be congratulated on the support which they are giving your committee, the results of which was to be seen in Craanford during the adjudication. However the comments made by the Adjudicator last year are still applicable - you should try to develop a three/five year plan for the purpose of the Tidy Towns competition in which you would endeavour to identify other environmental projects which you could carry out under the different headings within your physical and financial resources. This would also be useful as a yardstick to identify your successes and failures, if any, and act as a measurement in this respect. The plan need not be elaborate and could be worked out in conjunction with your community and the agencies involved with you. You received and in depth report from the Adjudicator last year. The following, therefore, is by way of comment on perceived further progress to date and should be read in tandem with last year's report.

The Built Environment:

Craanford is very fortunate in having many fine buildings and infrastructure - the beautifully restored old Mill, the Community Hall, Church, Post Office, GAA Centre and a lovely collection of stone walls, all of which are being well maintained and were very nicely presented on adjudication day. Noting your comments, nevertheless, the thatched premises were much admired and must be preserved at all costs. Craanford does not have very many commercial premises, but those that are

there looked very well and blended in nicely with the surroundings.

Landscaping:

Your Aqua Park is just lovely. What a wonderful place to have in a small village for the use of both residents and visitors alike. Flowers and shrubs planted throughout the village looked resplendent in the June sunshine and trees planted in the past are now maturing very nicely. As mentioned in last year's report, do try to plant more trees and shrubs which will give you some colour on an all year round basis. Planting along the stone walls looked lovely again this year and was very much admired. Perhaps some additional landscaping could be considered for the school grounds. The 1798 garden is a lovely feature and is being beautifully maintained. All in all, your tree, shrub and flower planting and your designated gardens create a lovely atmosphere in the village and the highest congratulations are due to all concerned.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments in this respect have been noted. Bird boxes and tables would be a lovely addition as will the information board and the hut when they come to pass.

Litter Control:

Craanford was litter free on adjudication day. Obviously your "Take It Home" policy is working as is your non-provision of litter bins. Sincerest congratulations to all concerned.

Tidiness:

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and reflects greatly the interest which obviously your residents have in the preservation of their environment. A wonderful effort by all. Well done.

Residential Areas:

Individual houses throughout the village are being very well maintained and some had lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day. This combined with the lovely landscaping throughout the village has created a wonderful presentation and all concerned are to be congratulated. In a small village this individual effort is an important aspect of the competition. You cannot succeed without it. The thatched cottages have already been mentioned and are too a lovely addition to the overall presentation.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach to the village from Gorey and Askamore are being well maintained. Verges have been cut and looked particularly nice. The condition of approach roads is very important as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the village. Road surfaces are good and pathways are being well maintained. A new footpath was also noted.

General Impression:

Craanford is indeed a charming place and your residents live and work in a lovely atmosphere. The village has now reached a high mark in the competition. Further success will undoubtedly be gained through careful planning and attention to detail. Please therefore do consider the suggestions regarding the production of a plan and, in the event, please send a copy of it with your entry form next year so that the Adjudicator can have sight of it. Do not, however, fail to maintain what you already have which is the backbone of your entry. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Craanford again next year to see further progress.

Second Round Adjudication:

A first visit from the second adjudicator found a village of great charm, with a great illustration of commendable community endeavour apparent. The two principal approaches are very well presented and the Aqua Park is a real gem: free of litter with well trimmed grass areas and a rich array of young quality trees. The stone village signs are excellent and very legible. The Hollyfort approach is disappointing and very overgrown: it is also on an important walking route. The high quality of the road structure is contributing to fast traffic on the Gorey road. You have a small problem area opposite the church which needs a clean up. As mentioned in the first adjudication, the village is now a high scorer and attention to detail is important if you are to progress further. Well done on a good performance. We commend the great development work at the GAA grounds.