

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Creggs**

Ref: **235**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **185**

Category: **A**

Date: **08/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	24	20
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>177</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

It was very encouraging to read in your impressive documentation that you received a National Lottery Award. Congratulations. It was also good to learn that you have a Junior Committee - some centres have failed to progress after a number of years largely because new members have not been recruited and the older ones have less energy to expend on further initiatives. You have received additional marks this year under the Developmental heading because of your new initiatives: the results may not become apparent for a year or two when you may then expect higher marking in the categories below.

### The Built Environment:

This includes public buildings and business premises. Kilbagnet Church with its landmark tower was well presented. The adjacent Hall was perhaps not up to the same high standard. The Parnell Centre was maintained to the dignified degree expected; the Parnell Monument likewise. The former Presbyterian church is most interesting historically as well as architecturally - this adjudicator was not aware that there had been a Presbyterian congregation in this part of Connacht. Should you decide to reinstate the building for community use there is excellent precedent at Castleblakeney where the former Church of Ireland has been rebuilt and is open to the public. The Rugby Club was in need of freshening up with paint at the date of adjudication. Kilby's and Piggots both had fine traditional frontages. The School was looking well in its clover-filled green and with its flowering window-boxes.

## **Landscaping:**

The shrubbery at the Presbyterian church has emphatically brightened up this end of the village. Excellent planting in tubs was favourably noted in a number of locations. Roses, broom, mallow and other plants were admired alongside the Ballymoe road.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The riverside walk was kept up to a good standard; being near the school it must create interest among school children, who will be benefitting from the excellent informational signage. It is splendid that you have been involving children in organic gardening. The variety of natural habitats, ranging from woodland to marsh, clearly sustain a wide variety of flora and fauna. Your mark is comparatively high under this heading and will undoubtedly rise provided the projects signalled in your submission continue as they are going.

## **Litter Control:**

The recycling centre was clean. There was a distinct improvement in the control of littering since last year - congratulations.

## **Tidiness:**

The concrete structures near the bridge created a poor impression on arrival in the village, but then the planning application was noticed and it was seen that you intend to build a new community centre here; be sure that the new building blends with the streetscape, and especially with the school next door. The derelict house next Kilby's looked unfortunate. An unsightly open yard was seen at Featherstone's. Much debris was seen at the GAA forecourt following the laying of footpaths - this should be tidied up. These are a few small incidences of untidiness which, if attended to, would create a much neater village.

## **Residential Areas:**

The traditional street houses were well looked after and it is these which give the village its particular charm. Some fine houses were seen on the outskirts, many with pleasant gardens which added considerable to the enjoyment of the scene; in general, there were inconsistencies of frontages, some less well maintained than others. Stone walls should be preferred to concrete blocks. Should there be further housing development, it would be preferable to fill the existing spaces in the village rather than to create estates away from the centre, in order to maintain the feeling of community.

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

The roads were reasonably well surfaced. Work on the bridge appeared to have been successful. New brown directional signage was favourably noted. New footpaths, and paving that was fairly new at the Parnell Monument, looked well.

## **General Impression:**

Creggs is a village where enterprise is in the ascendant. Attention to a number of small details which may seem inconsiderable will repay with surprising results. However, on the major issues, there is much that is unusually impressive, and a spirit of self-help prevails. Best wishes for your ongoing initiatives.

