

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Holycross**

Ref: **720**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **233**

Category: **B**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>230</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Holycross Development Association is to be congratulated on the hard work achieved to date in the village. Work, such as that in relation to the restoration of the Church of Ireland, is to be commended. It is to be hoped that your problems in relation to the cleaning out of the River Suir will be resolved with the Fisheries Board in the not too distant future. Many thanks for your map which was most useful on adjudication day. However, at this stage in the competition, it is essential that you formulate a Work Programme. This document need only be two or three pages long, outlining your plans and objectives for the village's future and setting a timeframe against their implementation. You could use your reports from this year and those of previous years, as a basis for starting this process.

### The Built Environment:

The Church of Ireland looked extremely well on the Ballycahill approach. The Sue Ryder Foundation Homes and grounds were well maintained. The National School looked extremely fresh, although its boundary wall should be repainted before next year's competition. The imposing Community Centre in stone looked extremely well with its mature grounds. Commercial premises such as the Old Abbey Inn appeared quite fresh and Skehan's was admired. The Abbey Tavern also looked well with a well surfaced car park area and trees on a grassy space with stone base. Its important that the mural on the gable wall is restored to its original colourful glory! Holycross Abbey and grounds and adjacent graveyard were as well maintained as ever. Croke's shop looked well on the far side of the bridge

and the Garda Station looked well.

### **Landscaping:**

The large green space on the Village Green was well maintained and its new picnic tables were admired. The village pump in this location was very fresh, as was that on the far side of the village. Attractive flower filled tubs were noted outside the Abbey at its car parking area. The landscaping of the Sue Ryder houses contribute strongly to this aspect of the competition. The riverside area to the side of the bridge near the Abbey was admired with its suitably chosen picnic tables.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The riverside area is most attractive, with its seating to sit and contemplate the wildlife and its walkway to benefit those of a more athletic nature! This area is well maintained with an attractive wildlife board. Your work in relation to having the riverside cleared is commendable and hopefully your negotiations with the Fisheries Board will come to fruition in the not too distant future. Your work in relation to the instatement of new mallards is to be commended. Perhaps you can develop this aspect of the competition further by involving the local school children in some projects on the wildlife habitats in the locality? Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook in relation to potential projects and perhaps get in touch with the local school teachers to see how the children could work on joint projects with you.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was quite good, although a light sprinkling was evident throughout. Papers were noted on the Ballycahill Road. However, in a village of Holycross's size even the odd item of litter can create a very bad impression. The tops of the litter bins should be repainted before next year's competition.

### **Tidiness:**

Weed control was a problem at kerbsides on the Ballycahill Road and to a boundary wall of a house on the Thurles Road. Quite a long stretch of weeds were apparent to a new building site on the Cashel Road. The farmyard walls on the Ballycahill approach should be re-whitewashed. Do ensure that dead grass is removed. The grass verge on the Thurles Road had been sprayed but the dead grass had not been removed. A similar problem was evident on the Cashel approach. Do discourage flyposting - the adjudicator spotted one advertising an event which took place last March! Some broken walling on the Cashel Road should be repaired - was this the walling mentioned by last year's adjudicator?

### **Residential Areas:**

Houses throughout were generally well maintained. A number on the Ballycahill Road were admired. An attractive new stone house on the Thurles Road was admired, as was the cobbled stone entrance area to another along this road. One or two boundary walls in the village centre will need attention before next year's competition. The houses and gardens at the terrace looked quite magnificent. The thatched holiday cottages were well maintained - however the sign in this location is missing with just the bare frame left which should be removed or the sign reinstated. The tin roof to a cottage in the village centre should be repainted in its traditional green colour before next year's competition. And the attractive colourful pinks and lavender in a planted stone bed outside a house in the village centre was greatly admired.

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

The nameplate on the Ballycahill Road appeared somewhat grubby and weeds were evident to the kerbsides. However, the stone walling in this location was admired, although the hedgerows were

overgrown. In terms of signage, the village nameplate was quite grubby on the Thurles Road also and the directional signs at the Village Green were rather grubby, and those at the bridge flaky. The Cashel Road looked well and its relatively new trees were coming along nicely. The Tipperary Road also looked extremely well. Overall roads were somewhat inconsistent in appearance.

### **General Impression:**

Holycross is a most attractive village with much to offer the visitor. Much activity was evident on the day in terms of ongoing maintenance, such as stone wall building. The centre was a pleasure for this adjudicator to re-visit after a number of years. Congratulations to all concerned and keep up the good work!

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The restoration of Holycross Abbey is among the finest restoration works carried out in Ireland and it was great on 2nd round adjudication day to see that that vision of the early 1980s is now bringing so many visitors to the village of Holycross. The Church of Ireland church restoration is indeed another impressive work of preservation.

The various approach roads were presented quite unevenly and for example on the Littleton road the long grass was up to the village sign. The riverside amenity area looked well on the second adjudication visit. However the anti-weed membrane has come through the gravel paths in a number of locations and need to be replaced. The grass here was in need of cutting. The view from this area over towards the Abbey is really stunning with the stone of the bridge blending with that of the Abbey beyond. Work is still required on some village signs. It was noted that the cottage scheme still lacks identity.

The central large green area is an impressive space. On the day of 2nd adjudication the grass had been cut, but the cut grass had not been taken away making the area look a little untidy. The flower bed with the stone surround and the pump at the green area on the Tipperary approach road is a little too low for maximum effect. Raising this by less than half a metre would be quite effective.

A little litter was noted at the riverside amenity area and on the Tipperary approach road. A large quantity of litter was noted directly across the road from the School entrance.