

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Crookedwood**

Ref: **536**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **203**

Category: **A**

Date: **19/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	203	200

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application form and map. Your submission should also have included a schedule of work completed for the year and a brief three-to-five year Development Plan. This plan will help you identify what can be done to improve the village over the next few years and the resources you will require. In addition, the works-completed schedule will allow you to monitor your achievements on a regular basis.

The Crookedwood Tidy Towns committee continues to be proactive and works in cooperation with local community groups, the local authority and other agencies.

The Built Environment:

Crookedwood is fortunate in that it is situated in an area of natural beauty, and its surroundings were reflected throughout the village. The built environment remains in excellent condition. The seating around the phone booth is very attractive and the national school is nicely presented. The building at the GAA centre is in need of some painting and the church could use some maintenance.

Landscaping:

The landscaping throughout the village is to be applauded. The array of flowers, shrubs and trees

was as diverse as it was well maintained. The landscaped area at the junction for Multyfarnham warrants particular mention in this category. Home and business owners are due credit for the display of hanging baskets and potted flowers. Those responsible for the development and upkeep of the picnic area on the Castlepollard Road should take delight in their excellent work.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The landscaped area alluded to above boasts a mixture of young and mature trees with an eclectic mix of shrubbery which will no doubt prove to be a haven for wildlife. Lough Derravarragh is a wonderful natural resource for the community and hopefully will be exploited a little more in the coming years. Perhaps the implementation of a longer term strategy would assist in this endeavour.

Litter Control:

The village can boast a relatively litter free environment, however, it was most disappointing to note that, despite the ample provision of litter bins by the lake, quite a lot of old rubbish was strewn about the car parking area. Perhaps the litter picking practice, which obviously works so well elsewhere in the community, could be extended to include this area. Despite the mention of the bottle bank at the Taghmon NS in the entry form, there was no bottle bank evident on the day of inspection.

Tidiness:

There is no cause for concern here; Crookedwood continues to be an extremely tidy and organised village. Perhaps the yard with the buses parked could be screened a little more from public view.

Residential Areas:

Congratulations to the residents of Crookedwood for maintaining beautifully presented homes and gardens awash with colour from hanging baskets, potted flowers and shrubbery. Keep it up!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The litter picking practice is strongly evident on all approach roads. Verges are neatly maintained – even on the day of inspection the verges were being tended to. The embankments on the Taghmon Road should be a wonderful asset when completed and matured. Signage is excellent and again the half-barrel floral displays provide a warm welcome.

General Impression:

Should Crookedwood maintain this pace of development, they should continue to do extremely well in this competition. Genuine congratulations to all concerned.