

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockraha** Ref: **791**
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **196**
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	196

Overall Development Approach:

Knockraha Area Community Association is indeed welcome to the competition. You mention you have a committee of six but have only had one meeting so far. Most towns and villages find it useful to hold a meeting one a month. How was your public meeting in May? Good luck with your plans to deal with the derelict building and the old forge. The planting of the trees in the Church grounds is indeed commendable. The idea to extend your area to cover new development within the village is a good idea. Congratulations on receiving a village renewal grant which will be very useful in your work. It is important at this stage in the competition that you formulate a development plan. This document need only be two or three pages long outlining your plans and objectives for the village's future.

The Built Environment:

Although the Church needs to be painted before next year's competition the boundary wall was quite fresh so perhaps it was in the process of being painted? The old National School looked well but its boundary wall needed painting. The new National School looked very fresh but its railings were badly in need of paint and the coping to the boundary wall was quite damaged in places. The Community Centre looked very fresh with cheerful hanging baskets and tubs outside. In regard to the choice of a colour scheme perhaps it would be a good idea to get the advice of a local person who has an eye for these things or else perhaps you could organise a competition, which would generate some interest in your activities.

Landscaping:

Incidental landscaped spaces throughout the village were good as was the planting of trees in the Church grounds. However, there is scope, as you have identified yourselves, for the provision of a large open space to act as a focal point in the village centre. There was a yard area behind an ivy clad wall – would it be possible to use this as an open space? It is located beside the new houses.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans that Foroige will conduct a wildlife survey in conjunction with a wildlife expert are indeed commendable and are looked forward to with eager anticipation. The planned nature walk at the holy well is also commendable as is the art competition in the School.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was very good with only a single paper being evident on the far side of the village. Your monthly cleanups are obviously paying dividends. The participation in the Cork Litter Challenge is commendable.

Waste Minimisation:

Your plans to recycle clean up waste is commendable as is the plan to organise a visit from a representative of the recycle centre at the School – or are the school going to visit a recycling centre?

Tidiness:

The tin roof of a shed in the village centre should be repainted. A derelict cottage was seen – is this the old forge?

Residential Areas:

There are a number of new houses in stone and render and those at Ard Abhainn and Radharc Tuaithe were admired. Do ensure that any new developments are finished to a high standard both in terms of materials and landscaping in order to blend seamlessly in with the village's character. A fresh house opposite the Church was admired with its petunias in window boxes and the colourful display to the adjacent house was also admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new signage on both sides of the village was admired. On the far side of the village the retention of the square traditional sign was noted and admired but it is in need of a fresh coat of paint and was obscured by overgrowth. The children crossing sign in this location was also quite grubby. Good luck with your efforts to involve the County Council in improving the condition of your roads and to providing you with traffic calming measures.

General Impression:

Knockraha is an attractive centre which has undergone much change in recent years. Good luck with your future plans.