

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Crollly** Ref: **809**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **163**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	23
Landscaping	50	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	21
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	163

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Crollly to the 2006 Tidy Towns Competition. Crollly is an attractive village deep in the Donegal Gaeltacht surrounded by the most beautiful scenery. The successful Tidy Towns Committees are those that succeed in harnessing the goodwill, skills and experience of a number of different groups and Agencies that have something to contribute to the implementation of the 3-5 Year Tidy Towns Plan. These groups and Agencies include the following –

- GAA
- Local Development Association
- FAS
- County Council
- LEADER Company
- The CLAR Programme (if you are in a CLAR designated area)
- Local school
- Udaras na Gaeltachta
- Urban & Village Renewal Grant Scheme

The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan for Crollly was not submitted with the entry documentation. All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others for Crollly over the short to medium term. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that you intend to do each year. It is recommended that you do not have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4/5 key projects. You will find such a simple straight forward Plan of major benefit when you are discussing your annual work programme. For 2007 can you make sure to submit a map

of the village on which you have marked the parts of the village where you have carried out work for the 2007 competition and other areas that you would like the adjudicator to visit on adjudication day. The Entry Form did not give much detail on the work that you did for this year's competition.

The Built Environment:

The Maxol Service Station presentation has improved since the 2005 adjudication, but the area beside this premises on the Gweedore side looked rather untidy. In Crolly the Paidi Oig premises has a prominent location at a bend in the road. This premises painted white was quite well presented and the highlighting of the windows and doors in a different colour is effective. This building may need painting in 2007 as white is such a difficult colour to keep looking at its best. The area of the Tennis Courts looked quite untidy and litter, much grass and weed growth was noted here. On the Dungloe side of Crolly a long white wall was noted beside the stone faced building. This wall needed to be repainted. At the car park opposite Paidi Oig's the abandoned telephone box should be removed by the authorities and replaced with a modern facility if this is the wish of the Crolly community.

Landscaping:

An attractive landscaped area with grass and shrubs caught the eye on the approach from Dungloe and this area was well maintained. Some attention was necessary to the landscaping at the car park opposite Paidi Oig's. Some individual properties in Crolly had good landscaping presentations and these added welcome colour to the village. Landscaping should play an important role in your Tidy Towns Plan for Crolly, and do remember that the Tidy Towns Handbook referred to in the 2005 Report will be useful to you in this context.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your suggestion of the development of woodland walks is a good one and hopefully your committee will follow up on this for 2007. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly. If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in the Crolly area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to the Crolly area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year. Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be to draft a straight forward Plan for Crolly to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl. It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved. As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

On the day of adjudication litter control was quite good apart from a lot of litter noted in the car park opposite Paidi Oig's. Your Tidy Towns Plan should pay special attention to litter control on an ongoing basis.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the community that they support to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Crolly for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste, segregating litter during clean up events. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste.

Tidiness:

As indicated elsewhere in this Report the Tennis Court needed improved presentation and the derelict Telephone Box here needs attention. On the right hand side before Paidi Oig's approaching from Dungloe what appeared to be a derelict car or car was noted above the road. This should be screened from public view. The large informal parking area across the road from this point looked quite untidy and needs your attention.

Residential Areas:

Generally private houses were attractively presented and a few older white-washed properties stood out and this presentation is welcomed in a rural area like yours. In a number of instances good landscaping enhanced the overall property presentation. Do remember that road boundary walls will need to be painted probably twice each year for maximum effect especially on a busy route such as yours.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Crolly needed attention as in general roadside banks had not be trimmed and verges needed further attention. Do remember to avoid cutting hedges during the bird nesting season. Verges will need to be cut on a regular basis if an attractive lush green appearance is to be developed. In your discussions with Donegal County Council the presentation of all your approach roads needs to be highlighted and agreement reached on a work programme.

General Impression:

Do prepare your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for 2007 and it will guide your work in the future. Crolly has potential to do well in the Tidy Towns Competition but attention to detail will be important. Good luck with your work in 2007 and we look forward to visiting Crolly again in the summer of next year.