

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Croagh** Ref: **447**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **225**
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Croagh is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. Thank you for the map which was most useful. It is noted that you receive support for your activities from West Limerick Resources, Limerick County Council, Heritage Department and the American Ireland Fund. Well done on involving the school children in your activities, like painting the Community Centre and Litter Campaign. We wish you continued success with your endeavours.

The Built Environment:

Many of the buildings in the village looked well, including the Post Office; Adare & District Nursing Home; the National School; Community Centre, School of Music, as did the Church and grounds, but the roof needs attention. The Sports Complex will be a wonderful asset to the village when completed, and well done to all concerned on the development of this fine project. There was work in progress at the entrance to the Restaurant & Garden Centre on the day of adjudication. And just a few of the premises are in need of little attention – the Carnegie Library is weather stained and the old galvanized roof at the side of the Ramble Inn is unsightly. Ballycannon Lodge looked well, as did O'Donnell's Newsagent, but the fly posting in the window detracted from the overall appearance. You have a wonderful Abbey at the centre of the village, but the whole area was overgrown. Note you have plans for the erection of lamp standards and no doubt this will improve the overall appearance of what is a lovely village.

Landscaping:

There were several lovely floral displays in the village but some caught the eye like the rose beds at O'Donnell's; the bungalow with several ½ barrels planted with variegated cordylines and many other planters filled with flowers; a very attractive shrubbery opposite the Grotto; the lovely window boxes at the Post Office, and many well planted ½ barrels throughout the village. The large flower bed at the Rathkeale entrance to the

village had been prepared for planting summer bedding and work was also underway at the Lodge. The landscape feature at the Adare entrance to the village was untidy and the plants cut back somewhat haphazardly. The village is fortunate to have so many fine stone walls. The Village Park looked very well with the fine planting of native Irish trees; roses, and large bed of New Zealand Flax with the sculpture was most attractive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Like many Irish villages, Croagh is surrounded by a natural wildlife habitat. This section of the entry form was left blank, but as mentioned in last year's report, consideration should be given to developing some wildlife project within the village, like around the area of the Village Park and Abbey. Even the identification of a area of land close to the village which could be sown as a wild flower meadow, which in turn would attract wildlife, which the school children could observe and document.

Litter Control:

Like many Irish villages, Croagh is surrounded by a natural wildlife habitat. This section of the entry form was left blank, but as mentioned in last year's report, consideration should be given to developing some wildlife project within the village, like around the area of the Village Park and Abbey. Even the identification of a area of land close to the village which could be sown as a wild flower meadow, which in turn would attract wildlife, which the school children could observe and document.

Waste Minimisation:

Noted that you segregated the litter collected during your Spring Clean Week, but this is a new category for 2006, and your committee needs to study the Race Against Waste booklet which gives information organizing car/van runs to the nearest recycling centre, composting, recycling clothes, Green Schools project, etc. Your committee may also get some useful information on this category from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council.

Tidiness:

The village presented quite well this year, but as mentioned in last year's report, the area opposite the Croke Park Bar, and adjoining sheds, is in a bad state, and the telephone kiosk is very unsightly. And when grass and shrubs are trimmed it is important that the cuttings are removed, and preferably composted.

Residential Areas:

The village has some very fine private dwellings which are mostly maintained to a very high standard and the owners must be complimented. The new Adamstown, almost complete, housing development looks well. Overall the village presented well in this category.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

With the completion of the water and sewerage schemes, and with the consequential benefits of the submerging of the electric cables, road resurfacing, new pavements and the addition of the speed ramp, has been of great value to the overall appearance of the village. The Failte go Cróch signs looked very well, but the one on the Adare approach is somewhat obscured by the shrubs.

General Impression:

Croagh, situated close to some of the Shannon Region's finest tourist amenities, is a fine village. For the size of the village, you have a large committee of fifteen, which shows much commitment to the competition. We encourage you continue to involve as many of the community as possible in your development plans for the further enhancement of the village.