

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Crossakiel** Ref: **548**
County: **Meath** Mark: **222**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	222

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Crossakiel to the 2006 Tidy Towns Competition. You seem to have a relatively large committee of ten people and this is great. With meetings every two weeks your group is obviously very active. The sewage works that you mentioned in your Entry Form were not in progress at the time of adjudication. The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan for Crossakiel 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 Crossakiel 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.

The Built Environment:

Crossakiel has a beautiful peaceful setting with some good views out over the surrounding countryside. As you mentioned in your Entry Form there are some derelict buildings in Crossakiel. The sidewall of one old cottage appears to form a road boundary wall now. By removing the visible gable areas this derelict cottage can be quite well concealed. For other derelict properties can you get permission from the owners to blank out the windows and doors with marine plywood? This can then be painted matt black and window glazing bars painted in in white. Doors and door panels can be treated in the same way. As a temporary solution to derelict property this is quite acceptable from a Tidy Towns point of view. At the two main shops in the village the signage could be improved by using a more traditional name fascia. The new Credit Union building had not opened by adjudication day and the signage had not been put up yet. The handball alley wall visible from the village would be improved if painted. The lettering is also in need of refreshing. The Garda Station is excellently presented as are most of the other buildings in the village. The Memorial is a most beautiful and

really interesting part of the village.

Landscaping:

The Village Green is obviously your central focus area for landscaping in the village. This area is really excellently presented and is being very well maintained. Other landscaped areas in the village though smaller in size play a critical role in bringing colour to those parts of Crossakiel. The landscaped area at the cross roads is beautiful but would be improved a little if the grass at the base of the fence was cut back. Near the Garda Station the small timber planter boxes that run across the gate are unusual and make an attractive display. The gate here could be painted a bright colour perhaps red. Your hedgerow planting project is noted and commended as an investment in the future presentation of the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans for a wildlife area at the old graveyard are most interesting. Unfortunately the adjudicator could not get into the graveyard as the freshly painted gate was locked. As part of your overall plan for the graveyard it is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential of Crossakiel, 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 village. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks, graveyard
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to the Crossakiel 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 Crossakiel 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. The wildlife project therefore need not be confined alone to the graveyard.

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:

Litter control on adjudication day was really good. As suggested last year we would be very interested to learn more about your litter control measure for Crossakiel.

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 for Crossakiel 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 in Crossakiel. We would like to hear of your work with the local recycling group and what you and they are doing to reduce the output of waste in the village.

Tidiness:

In overall terms the village was quite tidy on adjudication day. However a walk around the village revealed a number of small openings off village roads and streets that were quite untidy. Perhaps they can be screened from view with a timber or other gate.

Residential Areas:

Private houses in the village and on approach roads are excellently presented and on approach roads it is most encouraging to see some residents also maintaining the verge area in front of their house. At the estate in the village some boundary walls need repainting. The new housing estate was under development on adjudication day but will not be taken into the competition for adjudication purposes until residents move in. The new houses opposite McCabe's have potential for a coordinated colour scheme and the adjudicator suggests colours that will reflect the colours of the surrounding countryside.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads were extremely well presented and provided a great first impression of Crossakiel. On the Oldcastle road the bucket at the pump should be painted. On the Kilskyre road the landscaping is really excellent.

General Impression:

Crossakiel is a delightful village that has great potential in the Tidy Towns Competition. Key issues for your attention are tidiness and the development of the wildlife aspect of the village. Good luck with your 2007 work programme.