

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Knockcroghery** Ref: **519**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **227**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	23
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>227</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Knockcroghery's forte is the great amenity planting right through the village from beginning to end. This is a marvelous identity to have and is enhanced by the number of mature fine trees in the background including one roadside garden that has five mature trees filling its front garden. The plan submitted with the entry form is comprehensive and shows a marvelous commitment to creating an even better village and availing of the natural resources of the locality. The 32 years of work are rewarded with a visual tribute as one looks around the village today.

### **The Built Environment:**

The church and school look particularly well. The old school house is also nicely presented. The old railway station buildings while attractive in themselves, their surrounds do not do justice to the buildings. The central core of the village has well presented buildings except for the obvious few difficulties well known and hopefully due to be resolved soon. The Clay Pipe factory seems interesting and a shame that it is not open at weekends when most visitors are likely to be passing. The benefits from the village renewal scheme are very important in the village. Many people make great efforts with their buildings and this shows a great pride among the people of their village and reflects a good community spirit. The sculpture along the roadside provides very good interest

### **Landscaping:**

The entire village is a great landscaping success. The garden by the bridge and the Fair Green together with all the roadside areas give both a lovely entrance to the village and a well landscaped central core. The many colourful summer containers provide additional landscape colour and are welcome. Many houses contribute very well to the overall landscape by their good presentation of their gardens to the road frontage. The new housing estates need to be aware of the value of the entrance landscape and the care of grass verges and

open spaces within the estates -it is important that developers finish sites with a well and sustainable landscape finish. The area around the railway station causes a difficulty. The school landscape looks well but summer cutting of the grass is needed.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The landscape of the village is such that it does enhance the wildlife and bird song was particularly noticeable on the visit. No doubt other forms of wild life are also increased as a result of the mature plantings. The riverside is a lovely feature although the walk is extremely short and it would be great to have this extended. Information boards about what may be observed would be helpful and school projects examining aspects of the wild life heritage would allow more information to be gathered. Local knowledge should also be availed of in this regard.

### **Litter Control:**

The litter patrols throughout the year appear to be very effective and only small amounts of litter were spotted. This may well be from passing traffic as so much traffic passes through the busy village. The new litter bins applied for will mean more litter bin emptying. There is a very clean surface through the village and the work in this regard is very satisfactory

### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is noted that segregation of waste is practiced which is an excellent approach. This is good that it also occurs in the local school. The bottle recycle plant is well presented, accessible and kept very clean. This aspect of the competition is about concentrating both on the need to choose materials and methods that avoid producing waste and to consider environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste that is generated. A campaign of awareness with both homeowners and business people needs to be started to give an understanding of the importance of waste management and recycling. Compost heaps can be made for green materials, avoidance of using materials that do not degrade easily and separation of the various materials so that they can be recycled.

### **Tidiness:**

The village has a very tidy appearance. This is helped by the organised parking bays and the car park at the village centre. The well marked roads and removal of overhead cables also helps. The lamp standards look well. Signage does not seem to be appearing as a problem although it is wise to watch for excessive signs. Parking along the roadside at the village centre where there is a continuous white line and hatched markings forces cars to cross the white line and is consequently dangerous.

### **Residential Areas:**

The residences along the main street look very well and are carefully maintained. The residences opposite the school are nicely secluded behind the wall. The Kendal Court scheme fits in well with the village centre and it is good to keep as much housing as possible within the scope of the village to prevent sprawl around the outskirts. The Dun Ard estate looks well although better incorporation with the general landscape of the village would be helpful. The grass verges inside are not all well kept. The housing estate at Carboole is not complete and the houses opposite Ashwood estate are well presented. At Ashwood the weed killer treated grass along the roadside wall is unattractive and either should be removed or cut. The plans for new housing estates need to be carefully watched to ensure these are appropriate to the nature and integrity of the village and that all works are satisfactorily completed.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The main road through the village is a delight to travel along. The speed of traffic at the center of the village is a little daunting. The provision of footpaths is welcome and these are well maintained giving good linkage through the village. It is difficult to cross the street on account of the passing traffic. The islands or bays between the plantings give a nice style of parking and helps to break the appearance of lines of parked cars. The water pumps and name signs give extra character to the village roads

### **General Impression:**

Overall the village is a delight to visit. The landscaping predominates the appearance of the village. The commitment to improvements is obvious and it is that commitment that has taken the village to its present beautiful state.