

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Crinkle** Ref: **530**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **225**
Category: **C** Date(s): **27/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the excellent application with good maps and an updated plan. This is a good plan with achievable steps, set out over a 5 year timeframe so it seems there will be great improvements in crinkle over next few years and the committee is to be commended for their good planning. Crinkle is a very attractive village with an interesting history. The military barracks is by far what stands out most about the village. Good luck with all endeavours.

The Built Environment:

Some general improvements in the built environment were visible. There were still some derelict buildings, as the committee is aware but efforts have been made to paint and tidy up to an acceptable standard. The new gate on storage yard at school st screens the yard. It was great to see the information board on military barracks had been erected.

Newly painted pumps very nice with smart black paint

On barrack st, planting and benches, houses all well presented. The new shopfront of hassetts is much improved. Moran's establishment is tidy.

The school has planning permission application to knock and extend with library more rooms. Construction of new boundary wall – 2 little styles would be interesting to keep. The Thatch is a marvellous building, very inviting, with lovely plantings along the side wall as well as the care taken out front.

Landscaping:

Lots of new trees planted around the village. The lines of hornbeam trees achieve desired effect of being avenue like. The trees were noted on hawthorn drive, cypress grove and at the gaa grounds. The ivy at the gaa is a good antigraffiti measure

The riverside fishing area was found eventually, it was marked on the map, and there's a sign saying river camcor. There's an esb building and a wider area opposite for parking. If this is to be promoted and developed, need to clear grass verge back for parking and info signs. Bins maybe depending on use and monitor. This is a lovely spot for fly fishing and the new treated timber gate is handsome. Walkway riverside down to area hard landscaped to create weir for fishing is really nice. It's in development and is an interesting spot – there was an esb fisheries conservation worker strimming up the river at time of adjudication

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There are many wildflowers and native trees in the area, and it's good that consideration for berries and seeds were considered for wildlife planting. The mowing regime in the cemetery to promote wildflowers is working well

These new paths on school road as well pretty good – school really nice – painted, neat lawns, looks like wildlife garden in there with butterfly bush and veg patch possibly fenced off, herb garden being prepared – is this a green school? Lovely meadow area with ox eye daisy gorgeous as well. Nice how they've hidden bins behind trellis and planted creeper

Litter Control:

Litter seems to have improved from last year as no large amounts or illegally dumped material seen. There were a few scattered items around the village and the litter control measures that are in place were noted. It may be required to increase the frequency of the litter pick-ups if there are volunteers available, or what is the participation of the businesses, as some of the most notable litter was outside business premises. The bins outside the superstore are numerous and some of the older rusty ones could be removed. It was towards the end of the day at time of visit so perhaps premises are swept at end of day.

Waste Minimisation:

There are opportunities to get lots more marks here. Is the school a green school? Is waste awareness promoted to householders and businesses? It is good that the businesses mentioned are meeting requirements under packaging regulations by joining Repak. Is composting encouraged? If there could be a site proposed for a bottle bank the council will work with you to put it in place and manage it.

Tidiness:

Lots of space in the car park of the handball club and the gaa grounds opposite looks tidy and clear. Can see where the old wall was repaired so great work there well done. Saw all the little ivy plants there along the wall – lovely idea – it'll turn out great and hopefully effective as an anti graffiti measure. Looks like gate to the car park got a bit of a knock but is brightly painted. Are there plans for the green space along edge of handball grounds, opp gaa grounds, such as landscaping, benches amenity area. Footpaths all neat and tidy along here. New footpaths look smart which were done as urban renewal scheme - they have the urban red colour which is maybe not quite appropriate here but all very tidy. All street furniture including pumps are in good condition. Paths and verges in general are tidy

Residential Areas:

The paint and flowers competition is good to encourage improvements in individual properties. There are some beautiful houses and gardens in Crinkle. The residential area on Kilcormac road has many derelict cottages unfortunately and things are quite overgrown and untidy around there, with broken entrance paths and falling down fence at the park. However, there is work in progress as the kerbs have been tidied. Some back areas could be tidied up, although most gardens are fine.

Pity about the broken pavement in Ely place. It is otherwise quite a pleasant area, with wildflowers growing out of old stone wall, a bit dog fouling unfortunately. Could do with road markings repainting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There are lots of work in progress for example the beds on approach from Kilcolman. This will enhance this

approach.

On all the approaches there is a distinct lack of signage to identify the village. At important junctions such as the Roscrea -Birr road, there's no turn off sign for Crinkle. There's only midireland signs, and community alert signs. Crinkle village is very spread out, there's no focal point to the village and the committee does address that in the plan and it is something that's needed. It is difficult to know where the boundaries are - as this is category C location, welcome signs would certainly help.

General Impression:

There seems to be a real confidence to this village which probably comes about from having 5 year plan, knowing they don't have to achieve it all at once – that they can take steps in steady improvement. There were volunteers out working at time of visit so hopefully there is renewed vigour and more volunteers will join in the efforts.