

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cranny** Ref: **65**
County: **Clare** Mark: **222**
Category: **A** Date(s): **02/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	222

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed application form and sketch map. You are very welcome back into the Tidy Towns Competition after your one year's absence. Your mark under this category is relatively high and this represents your excellent work in bringing so many local agencies on board. You also have a very sizeable committee so well done on having so many members participating in your work. However, at this stage you would really need a basic practical work plan to progress further under this category. This plan would be a great advantage as it would outline objectives and timescales that everyone could work to and also allow the adjudicator follow progress from year to year. Please consider preparing one for next year as Cranny has real potential to do very well in Tidy Towns.

The Built Environment:

The church and the national school were all well presented, however, kerbside weeding has been neglected. Also, grass cutting at the church and graveyard was needing attention on the day of adjudication. The planting area between the church and Tir Na Nog was overgrowing and required attention. Seek advice from the Horticultural Section of Clare County Council and FAS for improvement. The Creamery area was another problem area, along with the pink building past the bridge.

Landscaping:

Please continue with your landscaping policy. What was viewed on the day of adjudication was very good apart from the planting area by the stepping stones. Plastic was clearly visible over stone in planting area and this practice will have to be addressed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have great scope for raising marks in this section. The Heritage Council will help you identify wildlife pockets in the immediate area. This will ensure hedge-rows and grass margins are managed in accordance with what is recommended. The committee should consider appealing to the local school to look at the possibility of getting children involved in identifying a project that would record the various types of wildlife that are associated to the immediate area. The Wildlife Ranger from Clare County Council should also help you with this project. Your natural habitat for wildlife is very favourable.

Litter Control:

The committee has been very active in ensuring the message of good litter control runs throughout the village. Having the school children involved is excellent as children tend to take on board projects with gusto and also leave good practices as an early age. In general, litter control is not a problem in the village.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a reasonably new area which has to be addressed under the National Tidy Towns Competition. The Race Against Waste is a campaign in raising awareness of better waste management practices. It is incumbent on us all to embrace this in light of our past record among the wider European community. Refer to the Race Against Waste publication, included with the original application package. Initiatives such as the Green Flag project for National Schools should be considered. Again please involve the teachers and children as they enjoy such projects and learn the importance of same at an early stage from best practice. Emphasis here is on waste reduction, recycling and reuse.

Tidiness:

The village is neat and tidy with some few exceptions. Kerbside weeding and overgrown planting areas by the church, as previously mentioned, will need to be addressed. Your planned project is noted for the Creamery area. The building past the bridge will also need to be addressed for the future. Potted planting was very good. However, hanging baskets at the bridge would also enhance the entry to the village. Also noted on adjudication day was rubbish burning on the green opposite the church.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category was good, some very pleasant houses in the village and outskirts – keep up your encouragement to paint and present their premises well. We liked the traditional features of many houses.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The general quality of the approach roads to the town are good, and as pointed out last year the welcoming signs really do stand out. However I must agree with last year's adjudicator who pointed out that the narrow roads could be dangerous. Have you had any success with Clare County Council regarding rectifying this problem? It is important that in addressing the issue, development of this kind will in no way detract from the rural nature of your town, but I am sure there is a novel approach that could achieve both safety and conservation.

General Impression:

The village of Cranny has a very tranquil and inviting appeal to it. It's a great place to relax and appreciate the peace and calmness of its surrounds. For this reason, a central feature of your objectives should continue to ensure that the rural ethos of the village is maintained. As mentioned earlier, the development of a written plan would help enormously in co-ordinating your efforts and the many agencies working with you. With a plan reinforcing the actions of your strong committee, Cranny could make real and rapid progress in the coming years. Well done on your substantial increase in marks this year, and please do continue with your good work to date.