

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cranny** Ref: **65**
County: **Clare** Mark: **239**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you Cranny TidyTowns Committee for your entry on behalf of Cranny village to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome to the village of Cranny to the 2008 TidyTowns competition.

Thanks to your Committee of seven people who take the time and effort to attend your regular meetings in addition to other TidyTowns events. This adjudicator appreciates that this work is a 100% voluntary commitment. Your Committee is doing very worthwhile work in this small and picturesque village of Cranny of less than 200 people. A recommendation for your Committee is the preparation of a very basic three-year plan for Cranny to assist you in the development of Tidy Town targets and initiatives. Your three-year plan would be a new initiative next year and would assist the Committee in forward planning and setting targets up to the end of 2011. This is worthwhile and can of course be altered as the Committee's work progresses over time. A maximum of two pages is all that is required and could be set out in bullet points. Keep it simple, it's probably a matter of listing all new and planned projects.

Your ongoing partnership work with Fas and those that have supported your activities is of obvious benefit to all. This is a vital ingredient in the success of TidyTowns activities. Your use of a Newsletter as part of your communications strategy is worthwhile.

I hope the later date in July for the adjudication of Cranny is more suitable as stated in your Entry Form. I wish you all the best with your planned activities into the future, including the Peader Clancy Festival later in July. Keep up the good work.

The Built Environment:

One of the observations of this adjudicator is that the Village is spread over approx. one mile on generally

quiet road from the School right down to the bridge and the river. Cranny is located on a very beautiful rural part of Clare and includes the old village school, the new school from 1980, the Church, some commercial premises and some excellent older and more recent individual houses. The Virtual Library project is to be applauded. Well done to the various organisations involved and thanks to the lady from Labasheeda who showed me around this excellent facility on the day of my visit.

There are some lovely individual houses around the village. In particular I admired the beautifully maintained peach coloured bungalow/cottage home and its magnificent front roadside garden. It was a credit to the owners.

The national school (1980) is well maintained and is set out in clean grounds in the shade of some nice trees, in particular one beautiful eucalyptus tree. Litterbins are evident. The Church also looked well, nice hanging baskets of flowers on display, and the lovely silver birch, but the outside grassed area was in need of cutting. Tir na nOg Pub looked well presented with nice green and red colours, while the parking area opposite was tidy with trees planted in stone beds. However the side area of the pub was untidy.

The cemetery area was also tidy and well landscaped. The old garage building past the bridge was in need of some maintenance.

Well done to all concerned.

Landscaping:

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in the Individual houses. The flowerbeds at the entrances to the village are attractive. Failte go Grannaigh and the use of nice indigenous wood features such as the rail sleepers shows innovation. The birdbox and feeder are nice touches. Well done. The bridge and river area is one of great potential. Flower pots, chainlink , hanging baskets on the bridge all add to the peaceful scene as indeed do the stone seats and table. The silver birches are well chosen for this site. However on the day of my visit the grass needed cutting. Overall , the work on this area over recent years has paid dividends.

The work on the Tionscnamh Fas project 2000 is an excellent feature, good crafted stone wall, with the seats built in adds to the rural scene. The 2006 dedication to a deceased member of your community for her voluntary work is very thoughtful.

The stone landscaped area with the ICA 1995 sign near the vacant lot is a nice feature and one to be protected.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Cranny is blessed with a beautiful quiet rural location in Clare. Every attempt should be made to take advantage of this location. The bridge and river areas are a haven for wildlife and could be developed further. Some thought could be given to the use of Interpretative Panels on local birdlife and wildlife and these could be placed at the bridge or at the landscaped area at the village entrance. Could walkways be established around the village area? Could this become a project to be included in your three-year plan for discussion with the relevant organisations? Some expert advice should be sought for the protection of existing wildlife and other species and the introduction of further birdlife. Also similar plans to get expert advice on the wild bird habitats might be considered.

The bird box and feeder at the village entrance is very worthwhile.

The involvement of the school children in appropriate projects such as your planned Wildlife Interpretative Display is so very worthwhile.

Litter Control:

The Village was mainly litter free on the day of my visit and obviously the work of TidyTowns Committee is paying dividends.

Waste Minimisation:

The purpose of this category is to encourage TidyTowns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Projects could include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean-up events.

The Green Flag award for the School is a project very worthwhile progressing.

Tidiness:

Cranny looked neat and tidy on the day of my visit. Well done on your strategy of encouraging residents to take responsibility for their own area.

Residential Areas:

As mentioned above the peach bungalow garden was first class, and indeed the work carried out in other houses was also very impressive. Rose cottage looked well.

Some older one off cottages and houses and more recent individual residential developments make up the village of Cranny.

The older houses help retain the village character and charm of Cranny.

Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The access roads, while narrow and windy, were well maintained and the landscaped area at the village entrance helped to make the visitor feel welcome and inclined to stop and spend some leisure time in Cranny.

Well done to all concerned

General Impression:

Cranny is a lovely village in which to live and spend leisure time. Congratulations to all involved in maintaining its natural and built beauty.

The ongoing co-operation between the public, and others, and the TidyTowns Committee is evident in the progress made by Cranny in the competition.

Congratulations on your 2008 entry to TidyTowns Competition and good luck for the future. I look forward to further visits to your village.