

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Creggs** Ref: **194**
County: **Galway** Mark: **219**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	22
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	219

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Creggs to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your completed Entry Form and the associated documentation. However the adjudicator had some difficulty in understanding some aspects of the Entry Form. You appear to be working with all the appropriate agencies such as Galway County Council, FAS and LEADER and their involvement in any TidyTowns programme is really essential. Congratulations on your initiative to have some Junior Members on your TidyTowns Committee as this is really an excellent idea and one that many other towns and villages in Ireland could usefully follow. Thank you for including the book on Mattie McDonagh which was most interesting. It is strongly suggested that your Committee prepares a 3 Year TidyTowns Action Plan for the period 2009 – 2010 as you will find this most useful in guiding your work in each adjudication category from year to year. Do remember that the TidyTowns Handbook gives great information and suggestions. Both new Committees and those who have been involved in the competition for some time will find this booklet really useful.

The Built Environment:

The Church was attractively presented and work seemed to be making good progress on the School extension and the work on the Rugby Club was examined. It was encouraging to read in your Entry Form that you are encouraging the use of the Irish language in Creggs. Are you aware that there is a TidyTowns Award that considers this aspect of TidyTowns? Before the Rugby Club the stone wall on the left hand side of the road needed to be repaired. This appeared to be the road boundary wall for an old pitch. At the GAA the gate needed to be painted together with the white lettering at the top of the gate. The raised landscaped area here near the gate and the flower tubs were admired here. However a pile of sand and some concrete blocks in the car park needed to be removed. A number of properties in Creggs needed to be painted and it would be great if some emphasis could be put on that for next year. The beautiful stone Heritage Centre building was admired by your adjudicator together with the neat and colourful window boxes. The Suck Valley Map here

was also examined and it contains very interesting information for the visitor to the area.

Landscaping:

Small landscaped areas add colour to the village of Creggs and your work in this regard which is never easy is commended. The landscaping at the GAA premises and especially that near the Heritage Centre was quite colourful. Elsewhere in the village the various flower tubs and other containers bring additional welcome colour. Hanging baskets provided by a number of premises completed the landscaping picture in Creggs. Near the yellow School warning sign with the lights the raised landscaped bed here needed some attention as some weeds were present.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator agrees with your view that natural landscaping is best and that artificial landscaping should be kept to a minimum. Your involvement with the National School in regard to wildlife issues is a good approach. The Park was visited and the adjudicator was of the view that some maintenance work was required. The grass was rather long and it would have been good to have had some paths through the young trees so that visitors could explore the Park area properly. Also the interesting wildlife panels were set back a little too far from the path for easy reading. Some of these panels needed minor repairs and a wash. However your work here is to be commended and this is a great amenity for the village.

Litter Control:

Again this year the hard standing for the Bring Centre has not been provided and we note that you have been lobbying for this for some time. It is so important that Bring Centre units are placed on a slightly raised platform with some bollards around the three sides. The official Bring Bank signage was missing from here and the County Council will be able to supply this. Some litter was noted in the Bring Centre car park and at the Wildlife Park both inside and outside.

Waste Minimisation:

You have done excellent work this year under this adjudication category and your involvement in the Galway Waste Prevention Programme is highly commended. Are any results available yet from the Environmental Questionnaire? The adjudicator understands from the entry documentation that the School now has it's fourth Green Flag – well done to everyone involved.

Tidiness:

The Bring Centre car park was very untidy and a screened off area for the storage of materials is suggested. On the Glenamaddy approach road weed growth along the verge was noted just before the village sign. Hopefully the project involving the lighting standards will be completed by the agencies involved without further delay. The various machinery open areas and the parking of machinery along the street are issues of concern to your Committee. The adjudicator accepts that there are commercial realities in this regard but suggests a screened secure area where machinery can be parked and stored would make a really worth while contribution to your TidyTown's work programme.

Residential Areas:

Work underway on new houses was noted in Creggs and this is a great positive sign for the future of the village. Again this year as last year private houses were generally well presented with good associated landscaping in many cases. Well done to the residents of the village!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some repairs are necessary to some stone walls and stone walls are a key characteristic of the village. On the road south out of Creggs some verge areas were a little rough and needed some attention. The Ballymoe approach road impressed with some very good verges and village sign near the 60 KPH sign. Work on new stone walls was also admired.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit your area for the first time. Good luck with your TidyTown's projects for 2009 when we look forward to visiting you again.