

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Crossakiel** Ref: **548**
County: **Meath** Mark: **238**
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	238

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form, map which proved very useful on the day of adjudication, the report on the ecology of the village and the wildlife management plan together with 2 CD's of the landscaping and photographs of the village. Thank you also for copy of the Jim Connell Festival Program and the press cutting of your success in the Anti-Litter League.

The Handball Club offers additional opportunity for a more colourful display of this centrally located and visually important building. The layout and presentation of the central square in front of the church was very fetching.

The major road race was in course of preparation during our visit.

The Built Environment:

The Church of Ireland, which was well presented in that the grounds were suitably cut. The Post Office, Noel O'Driscoll's premise looked well. The Welcome Wagon caught the eye while McCabe's Bar was very well presented. However there is a broken sign on the gable end which should be removed. The premise of Fenian O'Reilly, Agricultural Implements and Cars, was neat and orderly. The Jim Connell Memorial was very well presented with a good floral display. Next year marks the 80th anniversary of his passing and we wonder are there special plans in hand? There are two flag poles in position but no flags were flying on the day of adjudication. The Garda Station and the house behind were very well presented with a splendid garden display.

Landscaping:

The timber surround at the flowerbed on the Kells Road looked well. We welcomed the pump, painted in black

and white, and surrounded by stone wall on the Old Castle Road, this was a very good display. The road verges and hedgerows were very well cut back and appropriate and suitable low level shrubbery was very much in evidence. The new landscaping in position at the corner is very colourful. The improvements to the Kells approach road were noted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The report prepared by Dr. Tina Aughney makes most interest reading and its implementation over time will be a significant contribution to the presentation of this aspect of your village. This is an aspect of a village's presentation that is receiving additional attention in recent years.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on securing 3rd place in the Anti-Litter League 2008. Your committee's litter pick activities are clearly proving very beneficial. On the day of adjudication the absent of litter was general but some was noted on the small road going down to Magees Crossroads.

Waste Minimisation:

The return of the recycling facility by Meath County Council is applauded and well done for your efforts in this regard. It is increasingly clear that all of us must play a part in reducing the extent of waste being transferred by trucks to landfill sites. This can only be achieved by a community-wide response to the reduction of waste, introducing a policy of reusing material where feasible and recycling wherever practical. Consider holding a Waste Minimisation workshop in association with the environment department of Meath County Council to help spread the message and explore how best to achieve the all important minimisation.

Tidiness:

The village generally was very well presented and neat and orderly. In the central square opposite the Post Office the factory yard there, which had a great number of empty cable cores in view, should with advantage have a different type of gate which would screen the interior from public view. The number of building no longer in gainful use continues as a difficulty while an enhanced treatment of the Handball Alley would lift that view substantially, as it closes the view along that street this is of considerable visual importance.

Residential Areas:

The house in Crossakiel Heights looked well and the seat was a valuable attribute. Cairns Housing Estate looked quite well with again a number of residents making particularly good efforts to project their estate in a pleasant light.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road verges on the Kells Road were very well presented. The village name plate looked quite well and the speed limit signs were free of encroaching vegetation. The trees were maturing well along the road passed Reilly's Garage while the verge was delightfully cut back. The Old Castle Road was well presented with good planting and trees along a wide verge. The speed limit signs however need washing.

General Impression:

Crossakiel is very conscience of its historic past and mindful of the need to preserve and present the monuments, structures and people that are a link to that significant past. The committee are urged to devise and consult with the community on the creation of a 3 to 5 year TidyTowns plan. This plan ideally should set out objectives for specific buildings and locations, identify the agencies who it is anticipated will take the lead roll in implementing these proposals and above all, establishing a time frame within which each specific project should be completed.

All associated with this year's entry are thanked for their efforts, applauded for their various success and wished well in 2009.