

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Crinkle** Ref: **530**  
County: **Offaly** Mark: **231**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **14/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>231</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Many thanks to Crinkle Tidy Village and Development Association for your clear and concise application form and map, which were very useful on adjudication day. The amalgamation of the two organisations will, hopefully, prove effective and helpful in your plans. The Best presented House and Garden Award Sounds like an interesting initiative. Your five year plan seems a sensible and achievable one. We were delighted to hear that your previous plan proved successful and achieved an award in the County Council's Cherished Places Competition, and hope the current plan proves as successful. Work in relation to providing information to the visitor in relation to the fascinating history of Crinkle village (in particular the barracks and cemetery) is to be applauded. It is a fascinating place and this information will be of great interest to visitors. The restoration of the fire hydrants is also an interesting project. Work in relation to the stone bridges is also to be applauded. Work with the County Council, local school and GAA has obviously proved successful and we wish you all the best with these ongoing relationships. Congratulations on your well-deserved win of the Endeavour Award in last year's competition.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Thatch is quite charming and aptly named- it sported some attractive floral displays! The Post Office was very fresh and the Crinkle Superstore was quite charming but appeared to be a little stained and should be painted before next year. Do try to discourage plastic signage and encourage its replacement with signage of a more traditional timber variety. Some attractive stone walling on the Birr approach contributed well to this category of the competition. Some derelict buildings on Barrack Street looked unfortunate and hopefully will be improved in the not-too-distant future. The painting of the cottages on Swag Street is to be applauded, as these are quite charming. We wish you all the best in relation to the improvement of the boarded up site on Barrack Street.

**Landscaping:**

The magnificent grassy banks and trees are maturing well on Barrack Street. You have implemented a lot of tree planting which is marvellous to see. The odd one had failed on the Birr approach but they are spaced quite close together so this will probably work out fine in the long run. Attractive planting to a stone wall at Polydome Greenhouses was admired. The stone area to the GAA grounds looked well but staining was apparent to the rendered wall – creeper will improve this area in time. The planting of trees is a marvellous initiative and will make all the difference to the village in years to come for future generations. We look forward to seeing the completion of the green area at Grove Street. Perhaps you should consult with your Horticultural advisor before planting bulbs below trees to ensure that this will not cause problems with the trees themselves?

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The planting of berry bearing climbing plants at Cypress Grove and Boherdeel Road/Grove Street is to be applauded. Have you considered making an inventory of wildlife habitats in your locality? You could involve local schoolchildren in this project, in conjunction with local experts and then put together a wildlife management plan.

**Litter Control:**

Litter control was a problem on the day – quite a lot was evident in the village centre and along approaches to Crinkle. The odd paper was evident on the Birr Road and quite a lot was seen on the Boherdeel Road and along Swag Street. We read with surprise that Offaly County Council do not collect from the public litter bins in the village. Have you approached them in relation to this issue?

**Waste Minimisation:**

The segregation of waste from your clean ups is to be applauded. We look forward to seeing your new recycling facility-good luck with your work in finding a suitable location. Work with the local school in relation to achieving Green Flag status. They will be of great help to you in your work.

**Tidiness:**

Weeds along the stone walling on the Boherdeel Road looked unfortunate and more was apparent to kerbsides on this road. We noted that road works were taking place at Barrack Street on the day and hopefully this will improve that area. The problems associated with dereliction, poor footpath surfaces and undeveloped sites must make your work difficult, but the organisation seems extremely proud of their village and will, hopefully, manage to overcome these issues in order to make their plans a reality. Good luck with your plans for traffic calming measures. We look forward to seeing your work at Whiteford Cross.

**Residential Areas:**

There are a large number of new houses in the village. The magnificent houses on Swag Street looked quite charming, but had yet to be painted on the day. Southgate looked well with its single storey houses and most attractive landscaping which will mature well. However, weeds were apparent to the new kerbing outside. An attractive house with roses around the door perpendicular to the roadside on the Birr approach road was greatly admired. The redesign of the green area at Grove Street is a worthwhile project. Bi-lingual signage at the new housing estates is also to be applauded. We look forward to seeing your plans for the landscaped area at Hillbrook View. New trees and planting at Grove Street is a worthwhile project. The open space to Hillbrook View looked well. Cribben Terrace looked well but was quite littered.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Verges were well cut on the Birr Road and street signage in terms of road names appeared to have been erected since this adjudicator's last visit. Road surfaces were a little uneven in places – particularly on the Boherdeel Road, which will hopefully improve in the not-too-distant future. The work at Whiteford Cross is a worthwhile project. The re-alignment and resurfacing of Barrack Street was noted on the day. New signage at entrances to the village are most worthwhile endeavours as these form the first impression a visitor has of Crinkle. The resurfacing of the footpath at Military Road is looked forward to.

**General Impression:**

It was many years since this adjudicator had the pleasure to visit Crinkle. It is certainly a most interesting place with much to offer the visitor and immense potential to do well in the competition.

