

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Crossmolina** Ref: **711**  
County: **Mayo** Mark: **225**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **09/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>225</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Crossmolina Tidy Towns Association is welcomed to the 2009 Competition. Many thanks for your comprehensive and thorough submission, which made very interesting reading. You would appear to take an active part in all aspects of the local community and care a great deal about the town, and its future. We were pleased to hear of your close relationship with the Angling Association. Congratulations on your participation and success in the Pride of Place Competition - well deserved! The area development plan has obviously been very helpful to you in your work. The work in relation to farm gate colours sounds like a good initiative. The inventory of historic buildings will be a most interesting document to read, as the town is obviously steeped in history. Good luck with your application regarding a Heritage Trail and signage. Congratulations on your website, I'm sure it's most useful for you to help get your message across. We read with interest that you tackled the areas commented upon in last year's report, this is a good way to plan your work for the year.

### **The Built Environment:**

The commercial premises of the town were generally well cared for on the day. The Catholic Church was very fresh, with freshly painted statuary and well tended grounds. The adjacent National School was also in good condition and proudly sported its Green Flag on the day. We noted ongoing work to St Tiernan's College and presume that its boundary wall will be painted, when work is complete. The montbretia over-spilling must make a marvellous display when in full bloom. The GAA grounds looked extremely fresh and the creeper clad walls give a cheerful greening to this area! The traditional stepped garage of Crossmolina Motors was greatly admired. Walshe's is an attractive traditional shopfront with its original sash windows. Hickson's is another attractive traditional front, which would benefit from a fresh coat of paint. Leonard's is another traditional front, and sported some attractive floral displays for sale. The Pharmacy on Chapel Street was very fresh, as was the Dolphin. The Library looked well in its prominent location at the top of the street, and the Post Office was quite fresh. Davis' Brothers is an attractive vernacular building.

**Landscaping:**

The park area beyond the Catholic Church, comprising of nature garden was well maintained on the day. The playground area on the Castlebar Road was being well used on the day and was fresh and well presented. The cruxifix had also been freshly painted and looked very bright on the day. The beautiful mature trees on the grassy verge on the Ballina Road looked marvellous. The magnificent planted gravel beds on grassy verges, with trees maturing nicely in the vicinity of the GAA grounds, were particularly admired. The landscaped area on the Castlebar Road also looked very well. The gravelled bed just below the church on Chapel Road was greatly admired. The Easter Lilies in this location looked very elegant. The sculpture at the water's edge was admired.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You show great interest in this area of the competition and it was with interest that we learned of the two endangered species that live in local waterways, the freshwater pearl mussel and grey crayfish. The Crossmolina Loop walks are marvellous asset to have so close to the town with so much for the visitor and local resident alike. We were pleased to hear that you avoid pesticides/herbicides in your work. We read with interest of your clustering of planting to encourage habitats and your awareness of small scale habitats. The talk in association with Mayo County Council and the Wildlife Association sounded most interesting. We wish you luck with your nesting boxes.

**Litter Control:**

The standard in this category of the competition was excellent, as expected. We were pleased to see the award for winning the Mayo County Council Litter League proudly displayed on the Ballina Road. The active litter group are obviously having great effect, picking litter daily during summer months. Good luck with your purchase of a small sweeper.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The recycling area was well presented in its prominent location at the roadside. We were pleased to hear, it is one of the busiest in the country. The mulching and composting of the results of your work are a good idea. The recycling evening including fashion show sounded good fun, as well as informative! The composting evening was another excellent initiative.

**Tidiness:**

The town generally looked neat and well cared for on the day. A traditional shed at the Killala side of Church Street could benefit from a fresh coat of paint, as could a tin roof of an outbuilding further along this street. A number of premises still sported Christmas lights, which looked somewhat unseasonal.

**Residential Areas:**

We were pleased to hear that local residents associations attend your meetings and that three new associations have formed this year. There is no substitute for the active participation of all concerned in order to achieve the best results. The housing estate at Abbeytown was admired and well presented. Street houses along Chapel Street were very fresh. Individual houses on the Ballina Road were fresh and sported some attractive gardens. The houses of Knockglas townland also looked well. Attractive montbretia was admired to the garden of a house on the Ballina Road. A modern intervention to the street near Leonard's is a very sensitive treatment of the streetscape. Churchview was a well maintained estate. The Best Kept Housing Estate Competition is another good idea.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach roads were quite good on the day, although the practice of advertising hoardings should be discouraged as they can give a rather cluttered appearance. The Killala Road was well maintained, with a large expanse of grassy verges at the Church of Ireland, it appeared quite overgrown, however, beyond the nameplate sign. The gravel bed at the nameplate was admired. The montbretia in this location will be spectacular, when it comes into full bloom. The Ballina Road was very well presented with well cut grass verges. The new hedging and groves of trees were admired. It was weedy further out this road, however. Tree planting on the Castlebar Road made a good impression. The nameplate sign on the Chapel Road was in need of some attention.

**General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to visit Crossmolina after many years. It is a busy working town with much to offer, set against the magnificent backdrop of the Nephin Mountain.

