

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Croagh** Ref: **447**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **267**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	39	40
The Built Environment	50	35	36
Landscaping	50	37	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21	22
Litter Control	50	33	34
Tidiness	30	18	19
Waste Minimisation	20	11	12
Residential Areas	40	30	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	259	267

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome the very attractive and interesting village of Croagh to the 2012 Tidy Towns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Thank you for the comprehensive entry form, helpful maps and photographs and the CD. With 25 members your committee is extremely large by national standards reflecting the great interest that there is in Croagh in Tidy Towns. The village park map was also a useful guide to this beautiful amenity. Your communications with the community are excellent and you are receiving support from the groups who would be expected to be able to assist your work. The Tidy Towns Plan is a helpful strategic document and the implementation of this is making great progress.

The Built Environment:

Your adjudicator was highly impressed with the Stoney Man and this is a wonderful sculpture set in excellent landscaping. The Abbey and old Graveyard was visited and great progress has been achieved here. Will the missing stone in the windows and arch be replaced? Congratulations on your great G Day success on making it into the last twelve. Gates to the new Cemetery have been painted and the Pump has received similar attention. What is happening at the entrance to the School of Music? This area would benefit from some additional native tree planting. The presentation of the Catholic Church is basic and visually effective. At the National School it is suggested that the rather ugly concrete block road boundary wall is plastered and painted. The colour choice for the Community Hall is excellent and the fine wall to the front compliments the building. The Carnegie Library is yet another building that shouts for attention because of a great colour scheme. Excellently cut grass areas at the Nursing Home are complimented by good landscaping. The Croke Park premises would be greatly enhanced if the main sign could be changed to something more sympathetic with the environmental ethos of the village. The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish language must have the

primary role.

Landscaping:

Landscaping in Croagh has been sensitively handled with a great understanding of the true needs of wildlife. New planting along the N21 was examined though the verges along here needed to be cut. The old walls have been sensitively handled in respect of the Ivy issue. Replanting by the steps to the river enhances this area as does the additional landscaping at Adamstown. The landscaping at all entrances to Croagh is really excellent with just the right amount of colour. Grass areas here are well maintained. Hanging baskets, tubs and window boxes elsewhere add splashes of unexpected colour to the village. Your adjudicator reminds the Tidy Towns Committee that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating Section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your major project for the past year seems to have been the extensive work on the Park which was of course visited. This visit was greatly enjoyed and the tree identification system is really effective. The overall presentation and standard of maintenance here rivals public parks anywhere else in the country in this adjudicator's experience. The planting for year round colour and texture here has been noted. It was great to read that chemicals are not used anywhere in the park. The An Taisce course seems to have been of great benefit to the community. Is there any progress on the wildlife survey suggested last year?

Litter Control:

The weekly cleanups and the dog signs are welcome initiatives and successful ones. Litter control was found to be really excellent in Croagh. Litter control this year was improved on last year and your mark in this category is now quite high.

Tidiness:

The repainting of street furniture was noted in many parts of the village and all signs had been washed. Has there been any discussion on the issue of overhead cabling? This can be an expensive process but the end result is worth the effort in the end. Weed control was found to be excellent this year.

Waste Minimisation:

The new site for the compost heap away from the river was visited and it is now well located. Congratulations on your good work on the Carbon Footprint issue. Has the Committee taken any other steps to examine how waste in Croagh can be reduced each year? Has a survey been carried out locally involving the school, church, other public buildings and businesses?

Residential Areas:

The thatched house was greatly admired and it is in such excellent condition. The stone elements of the Adamstown development effectively reflects the limestone of the road boundary walls in the village. Individual houses were generally well presented and some excellent landscaping caught the eye.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The N21 has benefited from your new planting though verges needed to be cut. On the Ballingarry approach road some fine hedging was admired. The main road junctions have been excellently landscaped and provide a great introduction to the village core area.

General Impression:

It was a genuine pleasure to visit Croagh. This is a place of real character and historic interest and you are enhancing both in an appropriate way. Good luck with your planned projects for the year ahead when we will be back.