

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cranny** Ref: **65**
County: **Clare** Mark: **276**
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	41	42
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	27	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	33
TOTAL MARK	450	272	276

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Cranny is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form. You are commended for your continued participation in Tidy Towns and it is heartening that this has been of such great benefit to your community. Have you considered preparing a three-year plan? This would simply set out actions under each of the contest headings and would allow you to set goals over a longer timeframe. Do consult with the Tidy Towns handbook which has some good advice in this regard.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The national school has very well maintained surrounds and benefits greatly from its colourful mural and clean tricolour. The rubber ties on the cherry tree can be removed now before it damages the bark. The very imaginative reuse of old tyres was admired here! St Mary's church is looking fresh and a coat of paint on the Bell Tower would be worthwhile. Tír na nÓg Bar was admired for its flag, flowers and clean facade. Is the public library still in use? It looks quiet.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Cranny is situated in a quiet rural location and as such the countryside is the principal landscaping feature. Any new planting should bear this in mind and be sensitive to it. Well done for planting new cherry trees, no doubt they will mature into fine attractions for the village. As mentioned in last year's report please avoid the use of herbicides as it is not only unsightly but is very bad for the environment and even likely to be cancerous. The landscaped bed beside the old cottage works very well with the large display of lilies and other shrubs. Mature birch trees by the church look great. The quiet graveyard is well maintained.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

This category is about raising awareness of the important nature that lives all around us. In the countryside this especially means native hedges and trees as well as streams, rivers and lakes. Well done for building bird boxes, are there projects under way to find out more about the variety of birds that live in your area? The excellent 'biodiversity of Cranny' display was admired near the bridge. The stream is really important for wildlife. Try not to mow grass right to the edge but leave approximately 1 m for wildflowers and grasses to grow. Planting cherry laurel, or any horticultural plants in this area is not appropriate.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

Sending waste to landfill is exactly what this category is urging you to avoid! The adjudicator is looking for ways in

which you have taken a waste stream and turned it into a resource. Nor is the category concerned with litter collection. Does the school participate in the green flag project? This would be a most important project and one from which your group could learn about waste minimisation. You are urged to refer back to the Tidy Towns handbook to get some ideas of what can be done here. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done to the schoolchildren for the litter collection along approach roads. Cranny is a very tidy place while litter control on adjudication day was to a very high standard. Well done.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

Many attractive homes were admired throughout Cranny on adjudication day and all were presented to a very high standard. Rose Cottage especially caught the eye with its simple but striking appearance. Stone wall boundaries perfectly complement the rural setting. Hill View is another beautiful home with colourful presentation.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

An attractive junction was admired on the Ennis approach with stone bed containing roses and seating bench. A row of cherry laurel has been planted here with this should be removed. It is a non-native shrub which has no value to Irish wildlife or landscapes and indeed could end up damaging the native hedge that exists here by providing too much shade. If your intention was to screen the wooden fence this would be better done using whitethorn saplings. Similarly fuchsia is not a good choice, but not as bad as cherry laurel.

Concluding Remarks:

Cranny is a charming rural village looking out over rolling fields and countryside. Best of luck and keep up the good work.