

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Crolly**

Ref: **716**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **161**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	
The Built Environment	40	23	
Landscaping	40	21	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	
Litter Control	40	22	
Tidiness	20	10	
Residential Areas	30	17	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	161	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome back to the Tidy Towns Competition. To build on achievements to date please refer to the Tidy Towns Manual. Each section is designed to guide a new committee through the various stage of improving the quality of their surroundings by surveying their area, gathering resources, carry out a work programme and linking with all the relevant agencies that can help. A 2-4 page plan with a detailed map of the village will be sufficient to start with.

The Built Environment:

Crolly, located in the Donegal Gaeltacht on the banks of the lovely Crolly River has a welcoming appeal. Public and private buildings are generally well presented. The Petrol Station was undergoing some redevelopment works which we trust will be finished to a high standard and in keeping with the local built environment. The telephone kiosk is in need of attention. The Nuvotern building on the Loch an Iúir road has some nice stone facing, however, the area to the side would benefit from screening and weeds are a problem along the base of the building. Attention to boundary walls, rendering of buildings and overall presentation of the built environment should be an important part of your Tidy Towns plan.

Landscaping:

The shrubbery bed with rock, name plate near Paidi Óg's was looking well. As a focal point the addition of some colourful shrubs and perennial flowers might be undertaken for next year. Some planters were noted at the Petrol Station. The embankment opposite the Petrol Station lends it self to a rockery with heathers, indigenous shrubs and low maintenance planting. A CES worker was busy trimming bushes behind the bridge on adjudication day. Shrubs and planting in the car park opposite Teac Paidi Óig would benefit from trimming back as they are now slightly overgrown in places.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As mentioned in the 2000 report you have many excellent local amenities which can be used to your benefit under this heading. Refer firstly to the Tidy Towns Handbook to get an understanding on how to best approach some initiatives in this regard. Utilize local expertise to identify local wildlife and natural amenities, then formulate an achievable plan for the next number of years. Further development of the woodland walks with signage, information boards as well as utilizing the nearby Crolly Waterfall as a tourist attraction should be considered under this heading.

Litter Control:

There was only incidental litter visible on access routes on adjudication day which is proof of the dedication and commitment of the local community to their environment and the hard work of the Community Employment Scheme workers. The provision of uniform bins located strategically at the shop, pub, car park etc might encourage passing traffic to disposal of their litter there rather than leaving it by the roadside.

Tidiness:

Crolly has a generally tidy appearance, however, some untidy open spaces, weeds at boundary walls and back areas are hampering your progress under this heading. The open area after Paidi Og which appears to be used for storage should be tidied up or screened off to improve it's presentation. Some metal frames stored by the side of the road out by the cement works spoils the appearance of this area. The Tennis Court is an excellent local amenity, however, some weeds and an unkept appearance takes away from it's appeal.

Residential Areas:

Some well presented houses with nicely landscaped gardens, shrubs and good use of colour were noted on approach roads and in the village. A number of premises would benefit from painting. The new house on Bunbeg Road is a welcome improvement in this area and should when finished and landscaped contribute positively to your tidy town efforts. The use of white wash gives a fresh and welcoming feeling and should be used on outbuildings where appropriate. Special attention by property owners to boundary areas and the use of indigenous trees and shrubs for good all year round effect is now desirable.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The surface of the main road and footpath was in good condition. Some roads off the main road such as the road to the cement works are in need of urgent resurfacing. The current standard of the road surface on the Loch an Iúir Road will we trust be much improved when the road widening programme is completed. As the Bealach na Gaeltachta walks go through Crolly it is essential that the sides of roads are trimmed so that pedestrians do not walk in the middle of the road. Weeds are a problem along base of boundary walls particularly on the Loch an Iúir Road. The Annagry junction has a clutter appearance due to the number and variety of signage in use. The committee should approach those concerned to encourage a more uniform appearance.

General Impression:

You are making steady progress. It is now time to have a look at what has been achieved, what remains to be done and most importantly what the Tidy Towns Committee and the community's aspirations are for Crollly over the next 3/5 years. Your plans should be realistic and formulated in full consultation with all partners.