

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Croghan** Ref: **308**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **211**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>211</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Croghan is a very attractive village and the development work done to date is a great credit to the village residents and to the committee. The stone walls are a unique feature of the entire village and the fact that 95% of all walls have now been rebuilt or repaired is a marvelous achievement. There is a good spirit of enterprise and pride in the village and the ongoing proposals are all positive. The new development appearing near the Church of Ireland hopefully will be consistent with the village style and will incorporate well with the existing village without too much disruption.

### **The Built Environment:**

The built environment of the village is dominated by the very fine natural stone walls. The entrance from the Carrick an Shannon side is impressive with the well tended walls and also so many well presented walls through the village give a lovely effect. The school looks very smartly painted and stands out particularly well. The Croghan Community centre looks very well and St Michaels Church. The Holy Trinity Church is a beautiful building set well among the trees. The Shannon Gaels site is well presented too. The memorial plaque in the village centre was noted. The continuing concentration on stone work is to be commended. The number of new gate piers and the timber gates are a very attractive addition. There are still the problems of derelict houses - one in the village centre and one at the top of the village on the bog road

### **Landscaping:**

The most significant aspect of the landscaping of the village and surrounds is the magnificent stand of beech trees on the approach from the Carrick side. These trees look beautiful and are a marvelous asset – one can only imagine how they must look with autumn tints. Trees such as these were planted by past generations who could never have hoped to see them in their present mature form. We owe a similar legacy to future generations and unless places are found to start such new plantings we will be failing future generations. So

often nowadays small growing city type trees are used everywhere whereas the “real” trees such as beech, oak, sycamore, ash, chestnut would all fulfill a greater role – obviously there must be room for such trees but even one or two could well be accommodated in places. If it were possible it would be marvelous to plant trees to the inside of the wall along from the Catholic church towards the iron roofed shed – this would form continuity with the plantings of previous generations and help to conceal the new housing estate from the village. The hanging baskets throughout the village are lovely features. Congratulations on the enormous task of caring for these. The horse pond is an interesting feature and care should be taken that this historic feature is retained as the nearby development proceeds. The small planted area by the riverside in the village is attractive and also the plant filled cart and surrounds. The small garden with the lovely mature trees beside the community centre looks well. The graveyard of the Holy Trinity church is attractive.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The erecting of bird boxes and feeders is a very good idea along the Sli na Slainte area. Providing a walkway at the hill of Croghan is interesting. More concentration on this aspect would be worthwhile. Surveys of what may be seen in areas to promote the enjoyment of the natural environment would be helpful. Walkways with information en route also help. If there are nearby places of environment interest maybe these could be highlighted. It would also be interesting to record the range of birds that visit the bird boxes or feeders or similarly by having bird feeders in the school and in children's homes a log could be made of the birds that visit.

#### **Litter Control:**

Very good litter control is in place. In a village of this size and with a good commitment by all, the litter can be very well managed. The spring cleanups and encouraging the national school children to participate in litter collection with the tidy towns committee are excellent ideas. Also the tidy towns taking responsibility for emptying the three bins shows great commitment. The lecture in the school is also a good idea passing the important message of how important good litter control is in the village and elsewhere when they travel.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

In your summary of the projects undertaken this year the entry form describes how recycling is taking place by local businesses. Segregation of litter is being undertaken and that the school operates an organic compost bin. A bottle bank would indeed be an addition as well as other bins for the recycling of other materials. This aspect of the competition is about concentrating both on the need to choose materials and methods that avoid producing waste and to consider environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste that is generated. A campaign of awareness with both homeowners and business people needs to be started to give an understanding of the importance of waste management and recycling. Compost heaps can be made for green materials, avoidance of using materials that do not degrade easily and separation of the various materials so that they can be recycled.

#### **Tidiness:**

There is a very tidy atmosphere in the village. The roadsides and lovely lamp standards give a really nice impression together with the hanging baskets. The neat and clean walls and the well tended grass verges make the village of Croghan a very tidy village. Weed control at the kerb edges is important. It is nice to leave some green verge to meet the walls from the side of the road rather than a very barren and sterile road edge.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The small number of residences in and around the village is well cared for and shows a good level of attention and pride. Some stone wall facing work was in progress near the school during this visit. Like all towns and villages Croghan has not escaped the building development boom and a start is being made for housing now. It will be important that all new housing is incorporated into the village well and that the village core keeps its integrity.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road surfaces are reasonably good. The approach road from the Carrick side in particular needs special mention with its lovely grass verges, stone walls, beech trees and attractive new village name signs with planting features at their foot. The road surface is very bumpy in places where road works have been done or where repairs to foot paths have not been joined with the road surface alongside.

#### **General Impression:**

Croghan is truly a tidy village and the character formed by the stone walls and beech trees is very pleasant. There is a very good sense of commitment and pride in the village developments and the entire village forms a beautiful picture.

