

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Craanford** Ref: **132**  
County: **Wexford** Mark: **273**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>273</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank our for the concise application form complete with sketch map and supplementary material in the form of photographs.

It was a very pleasant experience to visit the tranquil village for the very first time.

Craanford has been at the top echelons of TidyTowns in Wexford for many years and one can readily see why.

There is a great attention given to addressing the basics and as a consequence everything else gels in place. Your work plans are straightforward and achievable and the Committee is to be commended for this approach as too many voluntary groups tend to loose their way when they try to take on too much.

Outside of your good relationships with Wexford County Council who see Craanford as a high achiever it was pleasing to note the community spirit of a local farmer who donated land and trees for a new project. Such generosity is a rarity so well done to that gentleman.

The local community has an obvious pride of place mentality as one can judge from the work done and the manner in which properties etc are maintained.

### **The Built Environment:**

The condition and presentation of the public buildings in Craanford are a credit to the members of the community that are entrusted with their upkeep.

It helped that the adjudication day was particularly sunny and everywhere was at its best but the National School resplendent with excellent grounds and ample car parking in front was as good an example seen anywhere in the rest of the country.

It looks like the child population of the village has increased as the extension to the school is taking shape very quickly.

The imposing RC Church and Community Hall were in excellent condition with the adjoining grounds tidy and orderly.

The GAA Grounds is situated in a most idyllic setting with trees planted all round the perimeter; these will mature in time to offer a protection from the elements. Not many small GAA clubs around the country have such excellent grounds with state of the art lighting.

The commercial premises Doyle's (Ui Dughail) Gala Shop, despite being very busy, and Cooney's Pub were very well maintained but could the owners of the pub move the blue wheelie bin to a less conspicuous place. It will be worth a visit back later in the year to visit the Old Mill which now has museum and tea room.

One wasn't sure if the Thatch Pub was open for business too early in day maybe.

The Aqua Park is an excellent amenity for both the local and casual visitor who wants to rest up and take time to explore this very historic little village.

It is noted that 13 houses are planned for an area adjacent to the community hall lets hope that the developer appreciates the uniqueness of the village and that the same approach will be taken as was to the excellent scheme on the opposite of the road from the Church.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping and the quality of same is a strong feature of Craanford.

There are many examples of simple but effective and striking planting arrangements.

The Village is helped by the fact that it has rich vein of trees surrounding it, these can be seen to good effect as one enters from the Carnew entrance in particular.

The new proposed improvement on the Gorey side of the village is welcomed.

The combination of planting arrangements at the Aqua Park on the main road and at the Monaseed Road Junction gives a very inviting welcome to the village and it does entice people to stop at the park to avail of the opportunity to rest.

Just bear in mind that individual planters need ongoing attention and annuals such as miniature dahlias, begonias and the simple pansy do need to be looked after on a regular basis.

Overall a very good standard was observed in this particular category.

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

Again simple actions have the greatest impact and the provision of more nesting boxes is one of the most effective steps one can take to encourage and preserve wildlife.

The committee is also conscious of the need to manage open areas of grass and road verges in the proper recommended manner.

Tidy Towns Committees have an important role in helping to increase the appreciation of wildlife in ones community.

It might be worthwhile to consider asking the Local Wildlife Ranger to give a wildlife awareness talk to the both committee members and the local population in the autumn.

It is also important to keep the school children keen when it comes to wildlife appreciation, maybe a competition in conjunction with the school could be arranged.

### **Litter Control:**

There was a very minimal amount paper litter to be seen on adjudication day which says it all about the local population and its efforts to keep the village litter free.

Continue to promote the "Take your litter home" message very strongly as the village attracts large numbers of people that stop off at Aqua Park especially at week ends.

Again the involvement of the school children gives an added dimension as it educates them in the benefits of good litter control.

The local "pickers" deserve immense credit for giving of their time in a voluntary capacity – a true example of community spirit.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The Recycling Point situated near the school was very tidy but do convey the message to locals not to leave bags of waste at the side of the receptacles, as outside of it being unsightly the practice could become habitual.

The Committee has started a number of small but effective measures that help to show what Waste Minimisation is all about.

The Metal Recycling Day with proceeds going to Charity is practical in two senses and hopefully it will be a big success for the Community of Craanford.

**Tidiness:**

The village appeared to be very orderly, no clutter or unsightly objects populating side areas or frontages of private properties.

The public buildings, already mentioned in the Built Environment section, had very clean and well maintained grounds and side areas.

Road surfaces were in good condition and verges were free of weed growth. Most back areas observed were fine and owners are making genuine efforts to keep places tidy.

The new housing development opposite the GAA grounds was mentioned in last year's report as being well managed, this year a similar comment applies.

Signs on both main road entrances were clean and visible and in a good state of repair.

**Residential Areas:**

Another clean the new housing development opposite the GAA grounds is maturing nicely.

The design of house is attractive and surrounding areas are well landscaped primarily with low maintenance perennial plants and shrubs. Exceptional boundary walls are a feature of this scheme

There are plans to build thirteen new houses just below the Church and it is hoped that they will be in keeping with the village layout and character.

Millford is another private development that is well maintained and presented.

The older premises are the bedrock of the Village and many had some excellent and colourful gardens and are a credit to their owners

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

All approach roads were in good condition especially the section of the R725 Gorey Carnew Tullow Road.

All signs both name and directional were visible and clean although having seven directional signs on one pole as witnessed at the Monaseed junction is a bit too much.

The "Craanford Hurling Supporter" could become synonymous with the Village in the years ahead-maybe it is time to give him a name!

Internal link roads were for the most part well surfaced and the car parking at public buildings and at Doyle's Gala Shop were spacious, well surfaced and devoid of clutter.

Hedgerows and verges were treated in keeping with recommended guidelines for the preservation of wildlife.

**General Impression:**

As a first time visitor one could not be but impressed with Craanford and one can also see why it is to the fore in Tidy Towns in Wexford each year.

The Committee and the general population of Craanford are to be congratulated on maintaining high standards by applying basic principles.

Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the Competition in the years ahead.