

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cranny**

Ref: **65**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **272**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **17/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	27	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	7	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	33
TOTAL MARK	450	267	272

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Thank you to Cranny for your entry into the 2015 competition and your adjudicator was sorry to hear of the ill health of the secretary. It is hoped that this finds her in better health. You are a small community and everyone works together to the benefit of Cranny. Both the Wren Boys and the Tractor Run have supported your work and you have Fás workers to help you also. Particular thanks is extended to the school for their support. You have been involved with the competition for 14 years so well done on your efforts over this time.

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

A lot of premises in the village had been freshly painted and looked very well. The Church front door was bright and attractive. The school was excellently presented with well-maintained grounds, a lovely mural along the boundary wall and an innovative display of how containers can be recycled as flower points. There were lovely window boxes and hanging baskets at Tir Na nOg Public House.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The raised beds looked very well in Cranny including those with roses and hostas. The hanging baskets presented very nicely at the bridge so well done to the green fingers here. There was nice ivy growth on the church boundary walls. Ivy offers shelter to wildlife and provides nectar late in the season. Your adjudicator felt that the grounds at the school were lovely and included some lovely native trees such as the silver birch.

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

Please be careful with the use of weedkiller throughout Cranny. All around the raised beds and up the Main Street extensive use of weedkiller was evident and it is poor to use chemicals so widely. Litter patrols should be encouraged to hand-pull larger weeds and the periodic pulling/digging of roadside accumulated vegetation should be promoted.

You have a good wildlife information board near the bridge and have erected a number of fun bird boxes. A lovely project would be to allow families to assemble and erect their own bird boxes, maybe pre-cut by the FAS workers. Each family could monitor what species of birds use the new boxes. Templates are available at www.birdwacheireland.com on how to make bird boxes and in particular what size of entrance holes are correct. Often these are far too large allowing predators to access baby birds. You could also consider erecting a bat box at the bridge or hosting an evening's bat walk. There is much to learn about bats such as the fact that one bat can eat around 3000 midges and they are one of Ireland's protected mammals.

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

Do you compost in Cranny? Using homemade compost in your containers would allow you to gain marks in this category of the competition. Using recycled materials at the school including an old sand-castle bucket for planting is another way in which you are stopping materials being put into landfill dumps.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Best of luck with the school's plans to apply for a green flag. Litter bins were noticed in a number of places in Cranny – are they all necessary? Perhaps you should carry out a litter audit and see what litter problems you have and how you can address this. Most rural communities are now removing litter bins in order to stop household waste being dumped in them. Some cable ties were noticed on posts on the Main Street.

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

There were many wonderful homes in Cranny including Rose Cottage and Hill View. The Old School House was in the process of being renovated and the painting of the doors will make a big improvement here.

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

Welcome signs were clean and bright. Be careful when in quite a rural environment to keep planting natural, the cordylines did not work so well here.

Concluding Remarks:

Cranny is a lovely hamlet in rural Clare. The hard work of the community has maintained this area to a high level and it is great that more are getting involved with the work of Cranny TidyTowns.