

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **COORACLARE**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	23
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	25
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>177</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning completed entry form. You do not say if you are working to a 3 or 5 year plan. If not you should formulate a development plan that would suggest phased improvements over a period. The improvements outlined since last year are commendable. You still have problems of dereliction, unoccupied houses and numerous uncared for open spaces. Yet there is good evidence of community spirit throughout the village.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This new category should suit Cooraclare as there are numerous areas where wildlife could be presented. In particular the bridge/river area already has a lot of wildlife. When planting shrubs give some thought to producing winter food for insect and birdlife. You might also consider sponsoring a wildlife poster competition in the local school, that would further highlight the scope for wildlife promotion in the area. You have a rich presence and variety of wildflowers that should be protected - especially on the approach roads.

### LANDSCAPING

You have scored well in this section and indeed many additional flower beds are in evidence since last year. You also have the benefit of two students working on improvements this year. It is important to have a laid-out work programme for any such schemes. The high grass on the Ennis approach was being cut on adjudication day. The Grotto and environs are well presented. The village welcome signs need painting. The many small and medium sized flower bed developments add colour to the village. The seating at the river needs painting - you should promote this amenity area and encourage locals to use and respect it.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The church grounds are very extensive and long term would benefit from improved landscaping. The large car park could be broken up into sections by good design and landscaping. The school and shrubbery is well presented. The Community Centre was well presented again this year. You have a problem with many buildings needing painting and these should be tackled with the owners over a period.

### LITTER CONTROL

Again this year you have done well in this section. Litter control throughout is good apart from a small amount in the river. You seem to have few litter bins.

### TIDINESS

In general the village is good and tidy, but closer scrutiny reveals a good deal of untidiness in areas between development. This included approach roads. Many open spaces are overgrown and project a poor image for parts of the village. The junction at the Kilrush approach is one such area. Give greater attention to approach roads for '97 and try and get commercial operators to present their premises to a high standard.

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses are well presented and some excel. River House on this strategic location compliments the river development. The Local Authority scheme of houses at the Kilrush approach junction could be improved. A number of houses are not being presented to full potential because of poor boundary walls.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

This new section has valuable marks available and should receive increased attention. Many gable ends and side entrances are poor in presentation. For '97 you should concentrate on side and back areas that will compliment the village core. You should contact the Central Fisheries and ask them to erect an identity sign for the river - such standard brown/white signs are now widespread. The building on the hill opposite the Community Centre needs painting as it is in a very prominent location.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village is well presented and the village centre in particular was well presented. You need to pay more attention to approach roads. Some of the young tree planting on Ennistymon approach needs attention. Some new developments should be encouraged to finish to a high standard by appropriate landscaping. You have done well for 1996.