

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COOLOCK**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	158

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form and map which proved useful on the day of adjudication. The fruits of your group's labour are evident in the village area and we congratulate you on your work to date. A suggestion for next years competition would be to encourage more local businesses and organisations in the village area to become a part of your efforts. A 3-5 year plan should be drafted to aid balanced development of the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Coolock has many fine green spaces which can become valuable havens for wildlife. It may be an idea to include school children in a project to discover what forms of wildlife exist in the area. A sub-committee could then be formed to co-ordinate the protection and preservation of natural amenities and wildlife of the area. In general, the natural amenities of Coolock are well cared for and are a credit to all those involved.

LANDSCAPING

The selection and siting of shrubs and flowers in the village is very attractive. The rock at the entrance of the village is surrounded by flowers and looks very well. Ideally, the same level of attention should be extended to the opposite side of the road which would look better if some flowers could also be planted there. All of the open spaces are adequately maintained e.g. school grounds. However, there was some weeds and long grass at boundary walls as well as some incidental litter. Efforts made in tree and flower planting at the boundary wall of the church car-park were noted and we look forward to viewing the finished area next year. The planted area inside the railings leading up to the church need attention.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The shop fronts and buildings that have made an effort are to be commended for this. St Brendans Church and grounds are complemented by flowers and new trees. However, the area around the Parochial House and the old church needs to be tidied up. Perhaps the members of the youth club could be encouraged to take responsibility for the presentation of this area. Both banks look well but it is important to look after the flowers and shrubs in order to prevent them from wilting. The Shell Petrol Station is well presented as is the post office and Kimmage Cycles. However, more work is required at the Boy Scouts Den. The Sheaf of Wheat looks well but there are some small patches of graffiti which need to be removed. The Garda Station could be brightened up with some hanging baskets. The railings at the Cadburys plant look very well. Plastic signage should also be discouraged. The post office was very nicely presented this year.

LITTER CONTROL

As pointed out in the entry form the area has a problem with litter particularly at the two schools, three take-aways, the off-licence and pub. Suggestions to alleviate these problems would be to include the schools in the Tidy Towns effort and to build on your present publicity by encouraging increased anti-litter awareness among local businesses, particularly those in the problem areas.

TIDINESS

Encouraging your local businesses and residents association to become more involved in your existing clean-up days will contribute to overall tidiness. It is important to control weed growth in kerbsides and at the base of trees, buildings and walls. The two schools and their grounds, namely Mercy College and Chanel College, were well kept and tidy; well done to all those involved. The derelict area at the back of Beachpark Avenue is unsightly, weeds and litter need to be removed and railings painted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses on the village's main street are well presented as are those on Beechpark Avenue. The pensioners flats on the same avenue must be complimented. Chanel Grove, Lismeen Grove and Beechlawn Green all look very well. The residential houses around the church car park should be encouraged to keep their back areas clean and tidy. The housing area around Mercy College is well maintained. St Brendans Drive and St Brendans Avenue were both well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The trees along Oscar Traynor Road look very well and the group must be complimented on this. The private garages facing on to the Malahide Road need to be repainted. On both of the above approach roads there was some litter scattered at the sides amongst the grass verges. The church car park was tidy but there was also some incidental litter. The car park around the shopping centre was clean and tidy including the rear area, however; the grass area at the edge of the shopping centre car park needs some attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Though the committee is small it has worked well to present a tidy and attractive village. However, to progress from this stage a number of projects need to be tackled; some of which have been suggested through this report. Encouraging more local groups and businesses to become involved in the Tidy Towns effort will help to enhance the overall presentation of the village.