

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COOLE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	30
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	182

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The standard of presentation of the village is a good indication of the widespread support that you have received from the Community and various State agencies. The priority for the next few years must be to bring the whole village up to the standard of the best areas, e.g. from the Multyfarnham road junction area to the village name sign on the Castlepollard road. You are now at the stage where a comprehensive plan is recommended which would identify your weaker areas and would be valuable in helping you to achieve your overall objectives.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new section in the Competition and a good starting point would be to seek advice on wildlife habitats in the village from local experts and identifying and improving wildlife habitats. Mature trees, hedgerows and gardens are all important habitats as are the type of shrubs/trees that are planted. A good starting point would be to seek advice from local experts on what more can be done.

LANDSCAPING

There are several attractive examples of landscaping work throughout the village notably the Multyfarnham road junction area with well maintained grass, stone walls and shrubberies. The village pump with its stonework and plants is another attractive feature. While the Community Hall is a well maintained, its extensive gravelled car park is somewhat out of scale with the proportion of the village. You might consider some landscaping work which would have the effect of reducing the overall impact of the car park. The well maintained wide grass margins on the Castlepollard road and the neatly trimmed hedges throughout the village are noteworthy.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church and grounds are well maintained as is An Tearmann Lir, however the area between the boundary wall and road at Tearmann Lir required weeding. In general the public houses and other shops are acceptable but further work could be carried out at the car park of Meehans as weeds were intruding particularly at the stone boundary wall of the car park. The signs at the Petrol Station are somewhat intrusive.

LITTER CONTROL

Overall litter control is excellent and you are to be congratulated on your high standard. No litter was seen on the day of inspection, however, you should still consider the provision of additional litter bins in strategic locations particularly at the picnic/seating areas.

TIDINESS

The village has a neat and well cared for appearance. The absence of litter, the well maintained approach roads particularly the Castlepollard approach, attractive shrubberies and well presented buildings all contribute to a tidy village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many very well maintained private houses, several have gardens of a high standard, e.g. The Bungalow and there are others in the vicinity of the 30 miles per hour sign on the Edgeworthstown road and on the Castlepollard road. However there are still houses who should maintain a higher standard area between boundary wall and road, e.g. adjoining the Burmah Garage and at the Granard road junction. It is a pity that the fine two-storeyed house is derelict - further work is needed to camouflage it.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As has already been mentioned the Castlepollard approach is of a high standard with its well maintained wide grassed margins, attractively well planted flower bed, the village name signs, mature trees, etc. There are also several other attractive features in the village such as lengthy footpath areas with cut stone kerbing and closely cut hedge approaching Meehans. Although the footpath from Meehans to the Inny Inn is not maintained to the same standard as sprayed dead weeds are noticeable. The mature trees on the Granard road are noteworthy, however, the maintenance of grassed areas is patchy in this location, some is of a high standard but other stretches are not nearly so good. The Edgeworthstown approach is not nearly to the same standard as the Castlepollard road. Screening trees were planted at the junction of the Multyfarnham road, some of these were damaged and need to be replanted and the iron railing on top of the concrete wall is rusting and long nettles are unsightly. The new stone wall at the Community Hall is somewhat marred by long grass and here and there directional signs, particularly the poles, need painting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Coole is a long straggling village with almost two centres - one around the Multyfarnham junction and the other at the Granard junction. Great improvements have been made in recent years but there are still a number of areas that are in need of attention. More attention to detail e.g. weeding gravelled margins would pay dividends.