

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COOTEHILL**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	199	195

Cootehill, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Cootehill Tidy Towns Committee is obviously a very dedicated and active one. You are fortunate in the level of support you have from the local community and both national and regional statutory bodies. You have a clear grasp of what you want to achieve for your town and a structured enthusiastic approach to realising this ambition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Buildings within the town of Cootehill generally looked well cared for and were bright and cheerful. However, an issue which needs to be addressed is the fact that there is some evidence of neglect and abandonment to individual private properties, some of which appear to be quite grubby and flaky. The public buildings to the town generally looked very well cared for. The Catholic church was beautifully landscaped. However, the plinth area to the boundary wall of the car park adjacent was quite flaky. All of the schools looked well cared for. However, the one on Station Road, although its grounds were well maintained, looked a bit bare. The dominant AIB building facing Station Road as you turn into Market Street looked well. The rustic stone Church of Ireland with its beautifully landscaped grounds looked magnificent. The Garda Station was being hosed down on adjudication day and hopefully this work will extend to the modern post office next door which looked quite grubby in comparison. Commercial buildings within the town generally looked well, bright and cheerful. In particular, the virgina creeper clad White Horse Hotel and Londis. One or two of the buildings along Market Street looked in need of attention. Care should be taken to avoid the inappropriate plastic curved canopies and to replace them with traditional fabric awnings instead. Large plastic signage should also be avoided.

LANDSCAPING

This is a category in which Cootehill excels. Some magnificent landscaping was evident on the outskirts of the town, in particular at housing estates, the industrial estate with its boat of petunias and at the entrances to the town. The simple but effective snap-dragons at the name plate sign on the Cavan Road were admired. The overall effect is marvellous, giving even the most casual visitor a sense that this is a community that cares about its town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is no shortage of scope for development of this area. Within the environs of Cootehill given its proximity to Bellamont Forest which is obviously an ideal habitat for all species of wildlife. For further information on developing this category of the competition, you should contact national organisations such as ENFO and Conservation Volunteers of Ireland as well as availing

of local expertise.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category was generally quite good for a busy town of Cootehill's size. It was virtually litter free on adjudication day apart from the following areas - some was apparent by the gate to the Church of Ireland, in the roadside gutter by the GAA grounds, on Church Street and by the Grotto along that stretch of Shercock Road.

TIDINESS

The overall impression given by the town is of a neat, well cared for appearance. However, there are still one or two problem areas such as forecourt areas and untidy yard areas which should be screened from public view as best as possible. The wire fence of the ESB sub-station opposite Hillview Drive and at the field further along closer into town created a bad impression. Perhaps the hedging already planted could be extended further in this area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Generally the houses both within the town and, in particular, on the outskirts looked well cared for. The residents of Cootehill obviously have a great pride in their properties. In particular the gardens looked quite magnificent with their lush green grass and beautifully maintained planted beds, particularly on Cavan Street. Great efforts have been made to the beautifully maintained common open spaces of housing estates such as Hillview Drive and Drumnaveil West. However, the presentation of houses along the Cavan Road was somewhat inconsistent, as the fresh ones showed up those which needed attention.

ROAD, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was somewhat inconsistent. Road signage needed attention, particularly on the Shercock Road which sported some very overgrown verges. The verges on the Cavan Road, on the other hand, were well maintained with the new trees coming along nicely. There was a very attractive landscaped area with a planted bed of petunias and some marvellous landscaping. The road surface along this road was not up to the same standard as that on the Shercock Road. In terms of back areas, along the Church Road, the old overgrown graveyard is ripe for redevelopment. The boundary wall of the GAA Hall needed washing down and some weeds were apparent in the forecourt area behind.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Cootehill gives a good impression to the visitor as it is natural in its unique informal charm and steeply winding streets, sitting as it does astride a hill. The busy wide main street of Market Street with its trees dotted along the car parking on either side is terminated beautifully by the attractively presented Church of Ireland. The peaceful and beautifully landscaped approach roads belie the fact that they are leading to a very busy Market Town.