

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	29
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	25	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>177</b>

## **Cooraclare, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for returning completed form together with short outline of your intentions for the next three years. It is obvious that there is a concerted effort to improve the village and environs, and many of the suggestions of previous years are being tackled. You have an attractive linear village with some very attractive buildings and natural amenities.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Again this year the public buildings looked well and the school has been presented to a high standard. Golden Vale has been painted since last year and is no longer the grubby building it was. The forecourt of the church still offers scope for improved landscaping that could enhance the church appearance itself. The many traditional shopfronts in the main street are a delight to see and many of them have been further embellished with window boxes and hanging baskets. The community hall is well presented and the tree planting adjacent is commendable.

### **LANDSCAPING**

This is now your strong point and many improvements are evident since last year. You are maintaining the development of previous years and the bright fresh colour throughout the village and environs presents a great air of caring throughout. The flower bed treatment of the village signs is commendable and presents a good introduction to Cooraclare. The amenity area at the river and bridge offers potential for further improvement. Consider a riverside walk with more seating. The Grotto is excellent. Approach roads are well presented with grass cut at all areas. The approach from the school has some very attractive mature trees and the wall top flower display here is praiseworthy. The long boundary wall painted last year looks fresh.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You are already contributing in this section by the presence of so many open undisturbed areas. The large area between the side and back of the Community Hall has a great variety of wild growth ideal for wildlife habitat.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The village was almost litter free and looked really clean. The gutters were really clean and it is obvious the community is playing its part in keeping the village under control. Litter bins were adequate in number and well spaced.

### **TIDINESS**

Many of the open spaces have been developed into landscaped areas and this is contributing to your tidiness. However, the garage forecourt on the Lahinch approach is very untidy and

could, with little effort, be improved. Daly service station is well presented.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

In general houses are very well presented. The cluster of houses at the Kilrush corner has improved and the new flower bed here is excellent. Many houses have been painted since last year and the policy of regular painting should be encouraged. Some gable ends would further improve if they were painted. The gable end of the first house on the left hand side entrance from the G.A.A. complex is in need of painting, as it is in a strategic location.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Commercial operators in particular should be encouraged to keep their side entrances to a high standard. Many back yards are visible from the street and these now form an integral part of the competition. Some farm gates should be painted a bright colour, especially those near the village itself. Marian Hall, in need of painting, is quite visible from the Ennis approach. Could this building be painted for next year?

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A visit to Cooraclare on a fine July evening found the village a blaze of colour, with some beautifully painted shopfronts. You have progressed since last year in tackling the problems outlined in previous years. Your challenge now is to tackle the outstanding problem areas and maintain your existing developments to a high standard. Well done on a good display.