

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COOLANEY**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	194	191

Coolaney, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The development approach adopted by the Coolaney Tidy Towns Committee to improve and enhancing the village and its environs is comprehensive. It involves both State Agencies and the community itself. The village has a charming streetscape and will be considerably enhanced by the removal of services underground, the resurfacing of the main street and proper footpaths. Some of this has been done. What a boon to the village when the entire job is completed. It is nice to see that you are in close contact with Sligo County Council and FAS and that they continue to support your efforts. The enthusiasm of the Committee is very evident. Thanks is due to the Committee for returning the questionnaire, Tidy Towns Programme and the excellent map.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the commercial premises are well presented. The Community Centre building was well presented with some nice hanging baskets. How about some widow boxes or flower tubs. J. J. O'Grady's had a nice bright frontage and a lovely traditional sign, marred somewhat by the gas cylinders on the footpath beside the shop. The shop incidentally has too many stickers in the window. The Garda Station looked well with its flower tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes. "Happy Landing" was also very nicely presented. The Post Office is extremely attractive with its traditional sign and lovely flower bed. Sproules Shop is also worthy of mention, as is the Riverside Inn with its hanging baskets. The gables wall of this premises, however, needs painting. The telephone kiosk is in a poor state of presentation and the building behind it has a rather drab appearance.

LANDSCAPING

The floral displays throughout the village and in particular the display of flowertubs, window boxes and the flower beds opposite the Garda Station are a credit to all concerned. The Fountain opposite the Post Office has some fine stonework and floral displays, however the amount of debris in the field behind the wall is disappointing. The treeplanting on the Ballymote Road is praiseworthy and the two lovely stone walls on the Sligo entrance to the village enhance this approach. The footpath here is very untidy. The Riverside Walk is very tranquil with its treeplanting, seating and flower beds. The extension of this walk is noted, the shrubery bed from the main street entrance is attractive. A great asset to the Tidy Town endeavours of the Committee. The monument looks well but attention should be paid to the grass growing here.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to see that the Committee postponed having some hedges trimmed in consideration of nesting birds. The suggested walking routes on the Ox Mountains might also be turned into nature trails, identify natural habitats and the flora and fauna of the area. The riverside is an ideal habitat for wildlife and as suggested last year the gardens along the river bank should have a uniform standard set or else be screened.

LITTER CONTROL

There was practically no litter to be seen in Coolaney on adjudication day. However, some litter was noticed in the village well. There was some residual litter seen on the Ballymote Road.

TIDINESS

The village has a very tidy appearance. The provision of a new road surface and proper footpaths would help enormously. The removal of grass from pavements would also help. As stated already the dumping behind the wall at the fountain is surprising. Two abandoned vehicles were noticed on the road opposite the community centre. There is a derelict building on the left of the Ballymote approach.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses in Coolaney have a nice presentation. The houses in the vicinity of the Post Office are lovely and the houses opposite the Garda Station are outstanding. There is a very nice house on the left of the Sligo approach with a nice garden and wooden fence. Some of the houses in the Village could do with freshening up, notably the house opposite the cream and blue house with its nice flower boxes.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road from Sligo was well presented, nice verges and well maintained. Rockfield approach was also good, Ballina approach was reasonably well presented, some very untidy gates on this road. Beware of the condition of the backyards particularly on the right of the main street as you approach from Ballina. The road opposite the Community Centre is a mite untidy. The Cemetery wall at Rockfield is lovely, however, the grass in the graveyard needs attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A good effort by Coolaney this year. An excellent community spirit. Keep up the good work.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (6/8/97)

Coolaney is making steady progress but more attention to maintenance would reap many more marks. For instance,

weed control at kerb sides and against walls was poor in many places. The riverside area simply needs to be better maintained as its natural beauty is quite sufficient in development terms. The wide street is a great asset and again with a consistent standard of maintenance (most buildings were brightly painted however) could be excellent. Keep the overall image simple, avoiding clutter with appendages such as superfluous signs. As stated previously new road and footpath surfacing would be a significant factor towards the visual upgrading of the village. The shabby condition of the telephone kiosk created a poor impression! To finish on a positive note, the recent stone wall building and planting is commendable.