

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COON**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	--
The Built Environment	40	26	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	--
Litter Control	40	26	--
Tidiness	20	13	--
Residential Areas	30	17	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	--
General Impression	10	7	--
TOTAL MARK	300	185	--

Coon, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

After an absence of 4 years we welcome Coon back into the Tidy Towns competition and wish them every success in it. Thank for the information and map which was most helpful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to read that in your Tidy Towns effort you have the full support of your community, your local authority, FAS and other State agencies and tourism organisations. The secret of success in the Tidy towns competition is community effort aided by your local authority and other state agencies but primarily it must be a local effort. The competition has changed somewhat since you last entered and includes a number of new headings.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The principal buildings in the village are the church and its grounds as well as the adjoining hall and the local school. All were very well presented on adjudication day. Business premises also looked well. Thank you for sending the plans for your Peace and Reconciliation Garden. The adjudicator looks forward to seeing it in its completed form next year. Your other plans in terms of the built environment were also noted.

LANDSCAPING

A small amount of landscaping has been carried out and where this was done it looked very well. Your further plans in this respect have been noted. Under this heading think in terms of the judicious planting of trees and shrubs which, particularly in the case of the latter, will give you some colour on an all-year round basis. The emphasis here is on the word "judicious" as to do otherwise only causes clutter. If you have a local Forester living in your area be advised by that person or alternatively consult with Coillte who also provide such a service. Alternatively your local authority may be able to help. In the event of providing flower beds, and while they do look well, please do bear in mind that they need regular maintenance particularly in hot weather. For that purpose and in many rural areas small open spaces have been developed, particularly on approach roads.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is an entirely new category in the competition. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodland, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee should try to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Perhaps there is a wildlife expert on your committee or living in the locality. If so consult with that person. Your intentions under this heading have been noted and the

adjudicator looks forward to seeing the results of your efforts next year. for this year a nominal mark has been allocated.

LITTER CONTROL

On adjudication day the centre of the village was almost completely litter free. Congratulations to all concerned. However there was some evidence of litter in the vicinity of the small housing estate on the outskirts of the village. Litter control is an aspect of the competition which needs constant monitoring. Perhaps a few additional litter bins would help and your intentions in this regard have been noted. If you have not already done so, it would be appropriate for a member of the committee to give a talk to local school children on this aspect of the tidy towns effort with a view to getting them involved.

TIDINESS

The village was very well presented on adjudication day and was totally devoid of clutter. Weed control throughout the village was also very good. Your comment regarding derelict sites has been noted. This an on going problem in many towns and villages throughout the country. Perhaps you could consult with your local authority who have powers in such matters.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Coon is almost entirely residential and private houses were well presented. Many had nice gardens which were in full bloom on adjudication day. However the small housing estate on the outskirts of the village could be better presented. Initially perhaps fences could be repaired and painted. In a small community the involvement of individual residents is of vital importance to the Tidy Towns effort. If you have not already done so you might form a Resident's Association and have them represented on your Tidy Towns Committee.

ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS

Adjudication normally takes place from the village name plate signs or the speed limit signs whichever you opt for. On adjudication day approach roads were reasonably presented but some needed cutting. There was visible evidence of work taking place on the Bilboa side of the village. The thinking nowadays is that grass verges should not be cut too close to the hedge and that some space be left for the propagation of wildflowers. In other words leave a margin of about a foot from the hedge or wall for this purpose.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your efforts to date on re-entry to the competition are excellent and the adjudicator looks forward to visiting Coon again next year, when many of your plans will have come to fruition. The key to success is to develop a 3/5 year plan and to do this in conjunction

with your local authority, your local community and tourism interests. Keep the plan simple so that its content can be achieved within a reasonable time and again within your physical and financial resources. An excellent start has been made. Keep up the good work.