

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>185</b>

## **Coole, Co. Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your clear map of the village and information on the application form. The village looked well on the day of judging despite the dreary weather. There was a flurry of activity involved in landscaping and general tidying up. The village, located high up and surrounded by bogs is evidently well cared for and has a hardworking Committee. A short , pointed plan setting out objectives for the next 3-5 years would be of benefit.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Church was well presented though what were the three blue and yellow barrels in front for ? They looked as though they were there for a purpose as they were so out of place. Turbotstown House requires a new sign as did the Post Office. The Colaiste looked well, however some weeding was required around the base of the wall. Would it be possible to cover the wall further with the Polygonum (Mile a minute creeper) This would eliminate the need to paint the wall which becomes dirtied through splashes from passing traffic. The grounds of the Colaiste were well kept though flag poles required repainting. The national school was neat though further planting of shrubs could enhance the grounds and create additional interest for school children. The Community Centre was ablaze with floral colour and these were well maintained. The carpark area was satisfactory. The old church on Multyfarnham road had well kept grounds and there was an air of culture and heritage surrounding it. It was spoiled by the rusting tin roof on the outhouse located to the front of it.. Meehans Pub, Dunleavys Foodstore and the Inny Inn were satisfactory.

### **LANDSCAPING**

A problem of recent Irish summers is the poor performance of annual plants. The adjudicators would suggest more permanent planting in the form of herbaceous perennials and shrubs to be considered in the future. The picnic area on the Delvin road was well presented. Areas on the Abbeylara road and in the village were also well presented. Litterbins should be available nearby in areas encouraging people to stop and picnic.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This is a lovely country village. It was noted that the edges of the grassy verges were cut back allowing for wildflower growth. Wildflowers do have to be maintained and cutting should take place at the end of June and in August. An area specifically managed for wildflowers or flowers attracting butterflies could be developed in conjunction with the school. Perhaps the area opposite the Post Office would allow it.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was very little litter evident on the day of judging and the village is to be commended for this.

## **TIDINESS**

The village was tidy on the day of adjudication. Generally neat hedgerows where required, weeding and a sight of general tidiness was noted. However, sporadically, a few weeds were noted along the base of walls and in the gutters. Building material should be removed when work is complete.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Many of the houses in the village were well presented. The Old Forge Garden Centre was ablaze of colour. Houses on the Multyfarnham road looked well and new planting of a pyracantha hedge along a front wall was noted. There was a also a house which sported some lovely wall plants. Further down the village, a couple of houses did require attention.

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

There is a very pleasant lead in from Delvin. The grass was well cut back where it should be cut back and allowed growth further out of the village. The Multyfarnham road was well presented and had good clear speed signs. The Abbeylara road was well presented and the trees gave a leafy ambience.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression of Coole was good. A great deal of work has been carried out on the village. However, attention to detail is required e.g. grass edges on the Abbeylara road and the blue bench on Abbeylara road required retouching.. A set of annual objectives should be drawn up at the beginning of the year which would give greater direction. Focus now, perhaps on the wildlife element of the competition for it is here you can gain valuable marks.