

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COLLOONEY**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	19	18
Landscaping	40	21	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	20	15
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	13	12
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	16
General Impression	10	4	4
TOTAL MARK	300	145	131

Collooney, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Unlike last year, this adjudicator did not receive a copy of your work plan for this year. As part of the competition you are requested to include a proposed long-term work programme, incorporating the various aspects of the competition headings for the town. A clear and simple 3/5 year plan, outlining achievable targets for the committee, this will help focus your work in the future, and also helps the adjudicator to measure your progress. Your fund raising venture and community involvement, along with your continued co-operation with FAS was noted. The Committee might try to foster relationships with other local bodies who may be able to help with ideas and practical advice or funding for your work programme. The benefits of these partnerships could further enhance and enrich the town and its community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Collooney has many features within the town that contribute to its overall appearance. Once again many of the public, business and residential properties in the town are attractively presented and maintained, with attractive floral features. All the churches were nicely presented tidy and well maintained. The school next to St. Pauls looked well with its attractive and tidy landscaping, but the other school needs some attention. The A.I.B. Bank is an attractive focal building on the corner with its colourful window boxes. The Garda Station, and Mary Immaculate School both looked very well. Johnny Macs Pub looked very well with its flowers and attractive paint work, but the yard gate needs some attention, and the Tasty Burger was also admired with its lovely hanging baskets. Cyril's, Connolly's Bar and P. Cullens also looked well. The very original wall mural beside Mc Cann's was much admired and remaining derelict sites could be similarly treated, some cosmetic painting was noted on a derelict house past Cyril's. The Garage on the main street once again was admired for its lovely shrub beds adding a touch of colour to the street. It is good to see some development on the previously unsightly site at this garage, hopefully its final presentation will enhance the streetscape. The area around the old mushroom farm also needs to be tidied. Many premises in the main street have a lot of shop produce on the footpaths in front of their premises. The committee must encourage business people to keep the footpaths clear and tidy to avoid interfering with safe access for those with disabilities.

LANDSCAPING

Once again, some nice landscaping features, attractive window boxes, tubs, and hanging baskets were evident,

providing a lovely splash of colour to the whole streetscape. The small shrub bed with its stone wall was again noted past the Garda station giving a little colour to that area, as was the small garden by the river. The Grotto in its prominent position, also looked very well with some attractive landscaping. The pump on the main street, could still be developed into an attractive landscaped feature. The bed in front of the Methodist Church will be further enhanced when the new stone chips are finished. The stones walls on the new road, on the Church road and at the Park all look well, and when the Park is completed the town will have a very attractive amenity area for all to enjoy. The open grass areas in front of the park needs to be suitably maintained. Ensure that you get some good advice when you come to choose your plants and trees (to include native trees) for this area. Choose landscaping features that you can easily maintain, and that provide colour and content for the whole year.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Committee have an important role in preserving and suitably enhancing the natural environment within their community. Planting suitable trees is a good idea that benefits wildlife and enhances the environment. The river remains an almost ready made feature to consider for future work in this section of the competition. There are also other opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats and the environment within the town. Wild flower meadows / grass areas, nesting boxes, pond/water features, trees and hedgerows offer additional opportunities. The local children and their school and grounds are an option for developing some of these opportunities. When choosing appropriate signs for projects ensure the enhance rather than detract from the environment you are promoting and preserving. Work in conjunction with relevant local bodies, ENFO, or a local wildlife expert to develop this area.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some sporadic litter in evidence in the open areas around the town and on the approach roads, particularly on the corner of the Coolaney road. It is good to see that the Committee are involving the community in voluntary clean up days. A Litter Awareness Project in the school, and an effective publicity campaign can also be helpful in creating awareness and in keeping the town litter free and tidy. The committee and community must remain vigilant in this important area.

TIDINESS

There are still many premises areas and properties that need to be tidied and their presentation improved throughout the town. The pallets and rubbish in the Car

Park in close to the C.O.I. look unsightly and needs to be removed. The area around the recycling bins also need to be tidied. The James Mc Mahon premises and area round Innisfree Crystal Factory, still create a poor first impression of the village as you come in the Ballisodare road. These properties continue to detract from the hard work of those who keep their areas clean and tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of houses throughout the town and on the approach roads, were generally well presented. The attractive hedges, lawns and colourful flowers in some individual gardens were noted, as were some attractive tubs and window boxes, and hanging baskets, in some of the town houses, well done for the hard work to those responsible. However the nicely maintained homes highlight those that need attention or their paint work refreshed both in the town, in the housing developments and on the approach roads. There was some rubbish and rubble in the open areas in the housing development behind Joseph's School. Rowan Tree Gardens looked tidy with its native Rowa trees, but the weeds need to be tidied on the footpath in front of the house on the corner. Some lovely stone walls were noted in front of houses around and including Chestnut Lodge B&B.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads are the first impression of any town and require particular attention for this reason. There were some improvements in the presentation of the approach roads this year, with some tidy hedges and edges noted on the old Tubbercurry road although the sign here needs the spray painting removed. The roads in the town look well - good road surface, markings and footpaths. Tidy verges and hedges were noted on the Union Wood road, and the old Cemetery looked very tidy. Mangan's is a very large focal site on this junction and while it looks tidy on the Dublin side, the whole area at the back that is visible from the Union Wood road looks very unsightly and untidy. The Teeling Centre still needs to improve the presentation of its Car Park. Some work has been started in the Coolaney road junction area and when completed should make a positive improvement to this area. The attractive stone walls, railway bridge and river bridge and pump are all features that could be cleaned and enhanced.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The committees continued interest in Collooney and the Tidy Towns Competition is admirable, but you need help to optimise the full potential of the town. You must increase community awareness, and enlist the help of all the local bodies that can help you enhance the town and its environment for the benefit of whole community and its

visitors. As stated last year you are a small committee, but do not loose heart, you are making progress. Persevere and we look forward to further progress with your development plans next year.