

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>192</b>

## **Cooraclare, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for returning completed entry form and sketch map of village, which proved helpful on adjudication day. You do not mention if you are currently working to an agreed improvement plan. If not you should list the projects you intend getting involved in and try and tackle a small number each year. Much of previous year's efforts are now maturing and enhancing the appearance of the village. You have some very fine mature trees, especially down from the school and these need to be complemented with some new tree planting.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

You have some very attractive old buildings that add great character to the village. These need regular maintenance. The church and school are excellent and reflect great credit on all concerned. The school has an attractive lawn tennis court and well kept playing area. It is one of the best in the country. The hall looks well together with many commercial buildings throughout the village. The old creamery is poor in presentation and the doorway is now open. Again this year, the Post Office is well presented and further embellished with flower displays.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Your strong point here is the beautiful bridge and river area. The grass has been freshly cut and the seating area is superb. Could this standard be extended to other landscaping areas? The grass at the shrine needed cutting but the floral display here is attractive. You have many flower displays encircled with stone protection. There is no need to paint the stones as it takes from their rural appearance. You need to maintain and strengthen the rural ethos of the village – so stick to the traditional materials and design.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You have potential to score well in this section. You should consider the development of a riverside walk that would in turn enable you to highlight the wildlife presented in the area. Perhaps a survey by the local school listing the local wildlife would prove fruitful.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

You have no obvious problem here, apart from a couple of

litter items at the river bridge. The sweeping/washing machine was in action on adjudication day and the main street in particular was litter free. Some bins are poorly presented.

## **TIDINESS**

Your problems here relate to untidy side and back entrances. You also have unoccupied houses in need of improvement. The telephone kiosk is being used for flyposting and should be stopped. Many open spaces seem neglected and project an image of untidiness.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Properties are in general well presented in the village and the approach roads. Some individuals excel in keeping their houses to a high standard. The houses at the Kilrush corner should consider having stone boundary walls built. They could then be landscaped and would present an attractive introduction to the village on this approach. Currently these boundary fences are in poor condition.

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

The approach roads need grass cutting and were very overgrown on adjudication day. The approach from Kilrush is quite overgrown which is a pity because there are some very attractive flower displays nearer the village. You have some untidy side entrances in the village that are keeping your marks down in this section. The G.A.A. forecourt is very large and very bare. Could a tree planting programme be applied that would add discipline to this area. Some of the village signage is in need of cleaning and painting. If the Council won't do it, you should do it yourselves.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The high colour due to the efforts of many individuals is presenting a favourable image for Cooraclare. You need to raise your standards in some areas, but most of all you need to work towards an agreed plan and bring the community with you. You have potential to be a high scorer in the competition