

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COOLAGOWN**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	220	214

Coolagown, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application form, Map, information and Image Enhancement Plans. It must be very gratifying to have achieved 80% of your Image Enhancement Plan. This is a great achievement for a village of less than 200 inhabitants. The Co-operation of Cork County Council, Blackwater Resource Development and FÁS with your Committee certainly appears to be a very fruitful partnership. The attitude displayed by the Committee and the residents is refreshing and is as laudable as the great physical works that have been completed to date. Keep up the involvement of the younger children as you have been doing.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church looks very well again, freshly painted and well maintained grounds. The comments in last years report about the conifers would apply again. The removal of the plastic sign does improve the pub, the floral decoration continues to look well. The landscaping carried out in the vicinity of the pub will enhance its appearance, Coolagown stud looks well also,

LANDSCAPING

The landscaped area at the Fermoy approach continues to be a most attractive entrance to the village. Care should be taken that the planting at the base of the second town sign does not block the sign. One suggestion would be to raise the height of the sign support poles. The other developments from previous years are being well maintained. The Rugossa Rose hedge and Beech Hedge opposite the Final Furlong improves this area as does the kerbing. The future development of the timber fencing and the kerbing to the Tourmore Wall will give this area a nice finish, as will the planting adjacent on the approach of beech hedging and margins of kerbstone beside the pub. The landscaped area at the front of the thatched house is beautiful. The picnic area is a nice focal point in the village, and continues to look well, and the future plans for this area should make it even more appealing. The planting of mature native trees at 30 metre intervals will have a good visual impact as most planting in the village is low level.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The continued planting of berry shrubs and the encouragement of wildflowers is a good thing. Hedgerows do not appear to be being cut on top, this is probably wise

when bird life is at its most active. The Committee should consider an environmental programme, this could be something that the youth or schools could undertake. There is a five step programme available namely, Habitat Survey , Developing a Management Plan, Access and Community Involvement, Interpretation, Carrying out the Work. More detailed information is available in sheet 6 'Wildlife and Natural Amenities' in the Tidy Towns Handbook.

LITTER CONTROL

Congratulations to the Committee and residence of Coolagown on winning first prize in the 'Litter Free Roadside Competition' and in the North Cork 'Village Litter Free Competition'. This is a fantastic achievement, which is well deserved due to the diligence being exercised by the inhabitants particularly the school children. Continue the Anti- litter Awareness promotion through the schools.

TIDINESS

Kerbside weed appears to be being kept in check again this year. The blackthorn hedging behind the wall at the picnic area is growing and will form a nice screen for this area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The level of care for private houses, paintwork, garden maintenance and hedge trimming is very good. All members of the community appear to be making a concerted effort. The house near the Church may just need to freshen its paintwork.

ROAD, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Fermoy approach continues to make a very strong statement. This first impression combined with the water feature and the bedding area are very welcoming. The new horseshoe gates look most impressive and the Blacksmith/horse logo or branding gives a very co-ordinated visual message. The cut stone gate piers also look very solid and robust. The piping of the old stream opposite the picnic area will look well when finished especially with a grassed surface covering the piping. Phase one of the restoration of Tourmore Wall was admired. The intelligent use of stone is now a feature of Coolagown. The hedgerows on the Coona approach are well trimmed at the sides as are the edges of the grass margins at the approach adjacent to the pub. This approach would need a speed limit sign as suggested last year.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The co-ordinated approach adopted by the villages gives a very favourable impression to first time visitors. The unique

theme of the Blacksmith /horse certainly confirms the title of 'Nook of the Blacksmith', which is the Irish name for Coolagown.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/00)

The attractive welcome signs, in particular that with the marvellous water feature when approaching the village from the main road, were greatly admired. The well mown grass verges and attractive floral display in particular at the picnic area looked well. The church had been freshly painted. The small village of Coolagown looked well cared for on the day.