

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COILL DUBH**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	21
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	21	22
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	16	16
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	165	164

Coill Dubh, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application and map. It would be helpful if you outlined names and places on the map as well as recent work carried out so as to guide adjudicator who may not be familiar with the village or area. A plan had still not been furnished with the application and this is required. It need not be too intricate just the aims and objectives of the committee for the next 3/5 years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The pump on the Prosperous road approach required repainting - a dark green might be suitable colour. The newsagent was reasonable, as were the other shops in the residential estate. They could have had a more co-ordinated approach in the presentation of the facades. Choice Stores was well painted – some tubs or planters would have brightened up the forecourt area. The Credit Union was finely presented. The school was reasonable though had some good planting and the golf course seemed a bit untidy though there were a good number of cars at the course on the day of judging. The Community Centre was weedy and needed attention.

LANDSCAPING

The village excels in landscaping in many places. The heather beds at the entrance of the estate are excellent. The stone entrance signs also looked very well. Incidental residential planting was good though could be better. Some houses had some nice baskets. There is great potential to improve an estate such as this by planting and having a co-operative approach. There are surely several residents who have green fingers and can help out raising seedlings etc. A greater number of trees would also enhance the estate further. The seating in the estate must be prioritised – it needs to be repaired and repainted or replaced. Climbers have been used to great effect in some places and this also should be repeated more.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There was no information on wildlife. This is a section of the competition that is often ignored and can be a section in which valuable marks can be achieved. Perhaps in conjunction with the school – transition year or below, an audit of the rural surrounding area can be carried out. This would help to enhance their current curriculum and generate an awareness of their local environs. There are numerous habitats including

hedgerow, meadow and bog to be considered.

LITTER CONTROL

On the day of judging there seemed to be a light scattering of litter in many areas of the estate, near the school and on the approach roads. Despite a good number of children playing in the estate there seemed to be no effort to clean it up indicating a lack of awareness. This problem again can be tackled through the schools. There also seemed to be very few litterbins so this area should also be tackled.

TIDINESS

Despite the uniformity of the architecture of the residential area, the overall impression was not particularly tidy. The approach roads were not well cut back. There was quite an amount of litter and some of the kerb areas were quite weedy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The estate itself was well kept. There was a sense of pride and generally the residences were well maintained. A similar type of stricture can be seen in Rochfortbridge, County Westmeath though the residents there have a co-ordinated approach to planting and this has great effect.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were reasonable though all needed further consistent maintenance. The centre area of the estate and the back roads were well cut back and with the tremendous amount of grass this must have been no easy task. The back areas were neat and tidy and in a couple of laneways there were some fine trees.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Coill Dubh is a unique village due to its history. It can score very highly in certain sections of the competition if a concerted effort is made by all residents e.g. litter eradication, tidiness and residential areas. A plan is required and also innovative thought on the incorporation of ideas about wildlife and landscaping. Do ensure that developments are in sympathy with the rural nature of the village. Please prioritise the seating- it will make such a difference when completed.