

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	199	197

Coole, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Coole is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. The village affords panoramic views of the surrounding countryside from its main street which are very pleasing. Coole is an attractive rural village which will probably experience developmental pressures with the sale of the educational complex, good luck for the future.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many buildings are well presented, public buildings such as the community centre and the health centre are presented to a high standard. The car park of the community centre looks particularly well. During adjudication, however, the flower cart was not in bloom. The Post Office could be improved in its presentation. It is hoped that the old educational complex will be developed appropriately upon sale and in particular have an attractive roadside interface. Some work in progress was noted in the church grounds, what appears to be a grotto was in the course of construction. We look forward to its completion. The pump and its enclosure looks well. The mural on the gable wall of the Inny Inn is a nice touch.

LANDSCAPING

The mature trees and their well maintained lawns on the Granard entrance into the village are an excellent introduction into Coole from this approach. Flower displays, shrub displays, saplings, young trees and semi-mature and mature trees give Coole a well cared for appearance. The boat at the Multyfarnham junction had not been planted for adjudication. No doubt this will feature a colourful display of flowers later on during the summer. Avoid the use of non-native species, such as the Cordyline at this site. The neatly trimmed verges and green areas on the southern entrance to the village were much admired. The old forge development / garden centre looks well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A habitat survey might be undertaken to identify habitats and threats to these and also to identify appropriate measures for conservation in the face of development. The overall goal should be to heighten public awareness and appreciation of Cooles flora and fauna. The Tidy Towns Handbook contains useful information on how to get started on a wildlife project.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is excellent. One can only hope that this

standard is maintained throughout the year. You give no information in your application regarding your litter control programme or activities. Maybe these could be made available for next year's competition.

TIDINESS

Derelect buildings are a problem. Some of the older, now derelict, houses still retain their traditional features and it is hoped that these will be retained upon refurbishment. Try to have weeds removed after they have been sprayed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The weather stained boundary walls to residential properties at the western end of the village are a problem for this entrance. The overall standard of presentation is good under this heading.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The old style nameplate on the western approach road looks well and is worth keeping. Approach roads to the village are appealing with their variety of wild flowers and herbage in general. Most items of street furniture, seating, bins, road signs, etc. are well presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Coole is one of a pleasant rural village, however weatherstained walls lining the road need a little more attention. Some reference to the wildlife of the area might also be valuable.