

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **COOLGREANY**  
County : **WEXFORD**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	--
The Built Environment	40	24	--
Landscaping	40	26	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	--
Litter Control	40	30	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	16	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	--
General Impression	10	6	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Coolgreaney, County Wexford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Coolgreaney is most warmly welcomed to the Tidy Towns Competition and wished every success over the coming years. Thank you for the completed entry form, the useful map and especially for the Five Year Development Plan. The Area Profile and the proposed Community Programme were all of great interest and help on the day of adjudication. The Plans, while aspirational, are philosophically sound and applauded.

The village currently enjoys a clear-cut divide from its rural surrounding. The 30 mph speed limit sign and the cut verges accentuating the cleavage, except on the Tinahealy Road where some work needs to be done in this regard. The wide Main Street is a delight with its atmospheric feel and flavour. The small number of abandoned houses should, wherever possible, be brought back into gainful occupation or activity. The commercial activity involving the scrapping of cars near the bridge is an adverse element which will call for sensitive treatment.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The bridge, which is an important, built element was well presented but could be highlighted even more. Ram House, has a pleasant presence about it which is a pleasant backdrop to its splendid gardens. The 1798 memorial is a suitable centrepiece and well presented. The two storeys, to one side, and one-storey to the other side is an interesting early manifestation of planning, while the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century feature, an open surface water drain, contributes to the authentic air of an early 19<sup>th</sup> Century settlement. The Post Office signs in plastic are not in keeping and could, with advantage, be replaced with timber signs. The 1844 O Rafferty's is a delight. It is very well painted and presented but it is disappointing to discover the barrels stored outside it awaiting collection.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The verges, while rough cut, were appropriate to their rural setting. Ram House is itself a major feature within this most interesting settlement. Some weeds were growing between the road and pavement, especially at the housing estate. There are delightful, individual gardens and, in this regard, Tinahealy Road is outstanding. The grotto while pleasant, could perhaps be accentuated to a greater extent by the use of additional flowers or colour.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The promotion of wildlife and the creation of appropriate habitats within centres are now seen as important adjuncts to the activities of the Tidy Towns Committee. It is recommended that a suitable programme of potential sites, together with a development plan in respect of some of them, at least, be incorporated in your updated Five Year Programme. The planting of native, suitable berry-bearing shrubs at appropriate locations will do much to attract colourful bird life to the area.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Your initial high mark underscores the success of litter management within the centre. We acknowledge the litter bin, sponsored by O'Rafferty's, and would welcome additional ones, particularly near the Handball Club. Extensive packaging had been abandoned in the laneway beside Tutty's Lawnmowers. We welcome the presence of the Recycle for Life installation.

## **TIDINESS**

The kerbing to Main Street has done wonders to give definition and a sense of neatness to the street and congratulations are extended to all involved. The Handball Club sign needs to be washed or repainted. Re-hanging the gates at Gardiner Grain is recommended. The *Coillte* office was well presented but perhaps the material stored on the avenue in view could be located more appropriately. The abandoned shed overlooking the communal grassed area on the Tinahealy Road requires immediate action to be masked, removed or renovated. A limited number of horizontal timber planks in front-facing garden fences need to be replaced. Broadly speaking the centre had a very pleasant sense of enclosure, neatness and suitability to its rural location.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The housing stock of the centre is limited but well presented. While many of the houses had excellent individual gardens, please do not overlook the area between the house boundary and the road proper. In some cases, this area of "no man's land" has got somewhat untidy. Defining, clearly, the edges of the roads can often assist. The new footpath at the housing estate is a welcome development. The former school – now a private house – featured a fine display of shrubs.

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

The approach roads to the village are pleasant, while some are spectacularly framed by trees. The fine, large stone above the former school, it is assumed, will, in due course, be carved with the name of the village. There are excellent grassed areas on the Tinahealy approach road. It is noted that among your proposed community projects that the trimming of hedges and ditches throughout the locality is an aspiration. Having regard to the rural setting this activity might, with advantage, be restricted to the areas within the village and used to define clearly the divide point between the rural surrounds and the village proper.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

In its initial year, Coolgreaney has scored very highly and the presence of a well-thought-out Five Year Plan augurs well for the future. It is blessed with important and worthwhile assets and resources and inevitably, a number of problems, none impractical if tackled with flair and imagination. The thought process, very evident in your Overview of the Village and in your decision to quote "Roots in the Soil" sums up all that is best and worthwhile in Irish rural living. The community and your committee are applauded for your activities to date and wished continuing success in the Tidy Towns Movement.