

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **COOLANEY**  
County : **SLIGO**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	32
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>214</b>

## **Coolaney, County Sligo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your completed questionnaire, map, and concise planning schedule it was all very helpful. All that was said in last years report re: your development is to be reiterated. When your plans in conjunction with the local authorities reaches their conclusion, Coolaney and the committee will be justifiably proud. Your proposals for 1998 are progressing with success and your continued enthusiasm and hard work is evident throughout the village.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The overall impression of the village is attractive, brightly coloured buildings with flower features and nice signs, with many premises well presented. The Garda Station, Sproule's, J.J.O Grady's, the Happy Landing, The Post Office all looked well. Thomas Keane Cabinet Makers have retained the character of it building, but could tidy the shed behind it. While acknowledging the notes made by the committee re: problem housing in the village, some premises need to freshen their appearance and paint work within the village, including those specifically mentioned in the previous report. The premises being renovated beside the butchers looked well despite the building rubble behind it. The adjudicator noted the painting of the derelict house beside the Riverside Inn.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The flower and shrub beds throughout the village were lovely, well maintained with a good balance of planting to ensure colour and content throughout the year. Tubs, gardens, window boxes and flower features at individual houses added to the overall appearance of the village. The fountain was particularly attractive and no rubbish was found in the vicinity, well done for taking note of last years comments. The new footpath development here is very attractive. The monument also looks well, with an attractive rail, ensure that loose flag work is repaired, and grass banks maintained. The stone walls, and tree planting looked well throughout the village and on approaches. Whilst some footpaths remain unsightly and detract from the overall appearance, these will be dealt with as development work progresses.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The riverside walk is an attractive feature which enhances the village. I was particularly impressed with the river cleaning operation in hand and feel sure that this will

continue up to the road bridge where there were some bottles and debris in the water. The new raised walkway is well done, but do not be tempted to over develop or excessively clear away growth in this area as you may detract from the flora and fauna already there. Seating arrangements were in good order. There was some debris in river beside the picnic area and this adjudicator would be concerned about full vehicle access to riverside area, which may damage your surfaces edges and may deter wildlife. The approach through the centre of the village is still being developed along with your signs, and all will look well when completed. Please note that last years comments under this heading also apply.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There was virtually no litter in the village on the day of adjudication, your prize-giving scheme is paying dividends already. Litterbins were noted throughout the village, it is important to keep these regularly emptied and maintained.

### **TIDINESS**

Despite the ongoing developments, the village presented a tidy appearance. The area outside the football pitch is untidy due to its being used as a depot area during development. Care must be taken to maintain alleyways and backyards that are obvious from the main street. Back garden areas, as seen from the river walk, were tidy with some planting taking place, efforts have obviously taken place following last years comments RE: setting a uniform standard or screening the areas. Continue to pay attention to boundary walls, weeds on footpaths and walls.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The majority of houses are well presented and nicely maintained with many beautiful garden and flower features, particular mention to the houses in the fountain area and across from the Garda Station. The house next to the river walk access in the centre of the village cleverly shows how to introduce flowers in a street setting and hopefully will refresh the paint on the remaining wall when the development is finished. Once again last year's comments continue to apply re: some houses needing attention and paint work refreshed.

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

All the major approach roads were well presented and showed how the facing of hedges and ditches can accommodate tidy presentation without effecting the wildlife and flora. The derelict house (ref-3) was very well presented and hopefully your approach to the parties concerning the railroad will be positive and that this site can

be tidied up. Some gates and open areas on the approach roads still need attention and the flower/stone feature at the gate on the Sligo approach was noted. The Rockfield road was particularly well presented with very neat grass verges and the graveyard area was also well maintained. The small approach road in the centre of town needs to be tidied up. The Bilingual Sign was well done on the Sligo approach but the Happy Landing sign needs to be touched up. Walking route signs were also well positioned.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Coolaney continues to improve and develop, with enthusiasm. To the committee and the community - keep up the good work.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/00)**

Coolaney is truly a "tidy town" with a very neat, clean and tidy overall appearance. The very nice collection of containers throughout the street brightens up this very wide street. On looking along the length of the street there is a definite opportunity for tree planting. Trees could be planted a little away from the paths or the paths extended in places to enclose the trees. There is also some scope for tree planting inside the wall of the field at the entrance to the village over the bridge (where the O'Grady sign is placed). The Old Railway Station House and platform is deteriorating and the restoration of this area would be a worthwhile project. The monument and water feature looked very well. The riparian walk is a marvellous feature and great credit is due to all for the development of this idea, the timber walkway, the paths and the access from various points, all make this a feature to be proud of and one that could give encouragement to many towns and villages who have such sites undeveloped. Small amounts of litter were noted in the water at the water feature and along the street near the Happy Landing – a full litterbin was noted too there. On the other side of the road at this point the severely cut back conifers look unattractive and have little hope of improvement.