

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **COOTEHILL**  
County : **CAVAN**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2001

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2001 | Mark Awarded 2000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 36                | 36                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 26                | 28                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 33                | 33                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 17                | 17                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 28                | 30                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 14                | 14                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 26                | 26                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 24                | 24                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 8                 | 8                 |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>212</b>        | <b>216</b>        |

## Cootehill, Co.Cavan

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The overall developmental approach is highly organised and planned. The committee has phased its operations over a 3 to 5 year programme of improvements. The adjudicator thanks the committee for the list of projects undertaken in the past year and the location map which he found most helpful.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Cootehill is going through an unusually busy stage of reconstruction. There are a number of impressive new developments such as the Credit Union and the Library buildings but equally there are a number of dilapidation problems which need to be addressed. The Abbot Factory is very well maintained with its cut lawns, trees and white fencing. The housing on the right hand side of Bridge Street looks quite good but there are a number of dull frontages. The Presbyterian Church is a delightful feature with its well maintained lawn and gravestones. The modern red bricked Credit Union Building looks very well as does the new Cootehill Town Commissioners Office and Library building. Both are modern but have a bright presentation. The small car park has attractive period style lighting and water pump feature. Building work ongoing at the bottom end of the street to the right. There is a spot of dilapidation at the building beside Smiths Wines. The West End Bar shop front is probably the best of the new fronts, black with gold lettering.

Market Street is a fine wide thoroughfare with trees placed on both sides its full length. There are still a number of premises displaying their stock on the footpath. There was some litter around the Londis Store and also at the AIB Bank. Some of this may be due to birds attacking unserviced rubbish bins. Dilapidation again in evidence at shop near Blessings. The feature Building is the delightful Church of Ireland building which dominates the end of the street. It is a beautiful old structure and has a well maintained garden and attractive tubs of flowers at its entrance. Beside the Church the AIB Bank is an interesting building. The modern Post office is bright and cheerful with a well maintained garden to its front. There are public telephones at this location. The White Horse Hotel looks well with its white frontage and developing ivy growth which adds warmth to its appearance. The old Urban District Council Offices have nice lawn to front and planters of flowers distributed around its edge. There are a number of premises along Market Street that are either changing hands or have refurbishment work ongoing. The shop fronts mentioned for awards are, with the exception of W. Rice, modern interpretations of old styles and while better than the plastic of some year's ago are of standard production. The W Rice window should certainly be preserved. There is a nice little off street development where the hostel is located, fronted with cut stone it features a series of small businesses and offices

On Church Street just short of McKenna's Lounge Bar is some more

dilapidation. The Semperite tyre premises is not attractive. The Holy Family School is very nicely maintained with cut lawns and shrubs. Dartry National School is nicely presented with a planter of flowers in the small car park to the front. The RC Church and car park are well presented, litter free and dressed with lawns and maturing shrubs. The Garda Station could do with a brighter colour presentation.

## **LANDSCAPING**

On the approach road from Cavan there is a 'welcome to Cootehill' sign over a well presented floral display. At the CavMac premises there is a welcoming and colourful flower bed to the right of the approach to the town. There are no broken walls or boundary fences. To the right is a well maintained verge with a series of flower beds and new tree plantations. The verge to the front of the Campus garage could be trimmed. A colourful feature here is the cart with its fine floral display just opposite Griffith Park. Generally the Cavan Road entrance has an attractive variety of colourful displays. From the Monaghan Road the town is introduced with a welcome sign nicely displayed in a planter of flowers. This is a very natural area with forest and mature hedgerows and the roadsides displaying all variety of grasses and wildflower. There is some weed on the left hand side of the bridge. A well maintained path runs from Haltons Forest Amenity up to the entrance to the town. At the Newbliss junction there is a nice boat planter of flowers close to the Holy Family School. On the Station Road a planter of flowers screens a bad entrance to the Dartry Estate.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The public information maps are nicely displayed in a fixture below which is a planter of flowers. Haltons is a nice forest walk, water activity, and picnic amenity overlooking the Dromore River. This is an ideal habitat for wildlife. A little litter, plastic bottle in river.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

On the GAA Memorial Park there is some graffiti and the car park is weedy. Rubbish bins have not been serviced with the result that birds have thrown litter around. The Church street graveyard is overgrown and inside the gates are 3 plastic bags of what appears to be refuse.

## **TIDINESS**

There is a fair amount of wirescape around Cootehill. Some is from telegraph poles but also the Christmas lighting support wires are evident. Chapel Lane has a lot of dilapidated buildings due for redevelopment. There is a nice floral display in the area but the link fence and dumping ground for oil tanks and baths should be screened. Michaels Hall looks very well but attention should be given to litter. The recycling facilities are located in the nearby car park.

The Tennis court in the Fair Green is not well maintained. There is weed growing along the side of the Presbyterian Church wall along Chapel Lane. There is some weed display on Station Road near traffic calming islands. Forecourts at Bradys Livestock Mart and the footwear distributor on Station Road need screening.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Most of the mature houses and gardens on all sides of Cootehill are well presented. The Errigal Estate looks very well with its well trimmed circular green around which a number of new trees have been planted. At entrance greens there are beautifully displayed colourful flowers. A little weed at the kerb stone at the upper end of the green. Almost without exception the houses in the Errigal Estate have nicely presented gardens. There is a footpath problem which needs attention at the top of the green. The gardens of the houses leading up to Griffith Park are very well maintained. The entrance to Griffith Park is superb. There are beautifully presented grass areas with a profusion of flowers and trees. Within the estate the road surface is somewhat broken along the kerbs. Overall the estate looks very fine. Drumnaveil West housing estate has a nice cut open grass areas and plant bed.

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

On some of the approach roads some of the verge cuttings have not been collected and give a somewhat untidy appearance. Near the entrance to the Cootehill Industrial Estate to the left the grass has been cut but not collected. There is a very attractive floral boat display at this point. Approach from the Church Street end has some cut verges, trees and seating. Kerb stone is weed free. To the left is a small open garden with donkey and cart feature. On the right hand side the New Line amenity looks well with its seating, cut grass, flowers, sculpture and Famine Pot. The screening of the boundary to the sports ground is maturing well. There are two new houses under construction with attendant debris at entrance. The approach from the Station Road has a welcome sign almost overgrown with weed. St. Adonis School freshly painted has a clean and tidy presentation. Good grass areas in front of school with trees. A little weed display at the entrance wall. The link fence along the playing fields need to be screened.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The main difficulty for Cootehill is that the town is going through a redevelopment phase and this transition affects the presentation of the town. In most instances the committee has no control over the commercial development of town properties. It is a credit to the Committee that such progress has taken place in this circumstance.