

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **COOLAGOWN**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>220</b>

## **Coolagown, Co. Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

A copy of your 'Image Enhancement Plans' was not included with this year's application; this is a most impressive document and is the kind of blueprint that other villages should follow. Is this plan now complete or are there still a few years to run under the Plan? The adherence to your plan was most impressive. Coolagown continues to work well with the support agencies such as FÁS, the Local Authority, Blackwater Resource Development and the S.E.S. Schemes.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

McDonnell Brothers hedge looks well trimmed and the foreground area looks well tended. The Church and perimeter wall are very freshly painted. The Final Furlong Pub continues to look well as does the entrance to Coolagown stud.

### **LANDSCAPING**

This is a very strong category for Coolagown and the strong emphasis on native species is to be applauded. The entrance from the Fermoy side is still very strong and creates a great impression. The adjudicator's suggestion in last years report regarding the raising of the Village sign above the bedding plants does make it more visible. The raised beds area near the thatched house is very well tended. The area around the picnic table is maturing nicely and has a good blend of plants/shrubs. There are also nice raised beds on the left as you approach the Church from the Fermoy side. The Church has some nice raised beds. The planting opposite the Final Furlong on the side road is very colourful. The tree planting at 30 metre intervals behind the concrete fence posting looks well. The plan to carry out further landscaping on the Final Furlong side of the side road is noted.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Coolagown is in a very beautiful location. As suggested in last years report there is a good format in Sheet 6 'Wildlife and Natural Amenities' in the Tidy Towns Handbook. This maybe a subject that local school children could undertake with adequate supervision.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

I note that Coolagown is again involved in the Cork County Council Litter Competition. This continues to be a very strong category for the Village. Have the Committee continued the anti-litter awareness campaigns in the Schools? Any activities concerning awareness campaigns should be furnished with your Tidy Towns application to

keep the adjudicator fully informed.

## **TIDINESS**

There is some sand and gravel deposits near the picnic area, these should be removed when works are complete. Kerbside weeds do not appear to be a problem. One issue that could become problematic in time is to keep grass cut to a reasonable height inside the gates (Horse shoe) i.e. on the left side as you approach from the Fermoy side. Coolagown should enquire about getting recycling facilities for the Village.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

This is a very strong category again with all houses displaying a high degree of pride. The thatched two-storey house makes good use of an old traditional craft. Front walls, hedges, lawns and shrubs were all beautifully presented. The house near the Church should consider freshening its paintwork.

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

The area near the water feature is undergoing work to put in pipes; this will be nice when complete. Insure that any areas that are piped are suitably levelled when the pipes are covered. The work done along the left margins to the village where drainage pipes were installed last year looks quite bumpy. The hedgerows and margins are well cut on the Fermoy and Conna approach but the margins on the road adjacent to the pub would need to be cut. The Tourmore wall looks well. There appears to be an absence of speed limit signs on the approaches to the Village, this matter should be raised with the Local Authority, as should the absence of road markings in the Centre of the road. The Blacksmith/horseshoe logo on gates look very distinctive and give Coolagown a unique appearance.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The Village has developed in a very co-ordinated and professional fashion. Coolagown creates a great impression for first time visitors. The future plans for the Village are very important to build on the great works completed to date.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/01)**

Especially to be commended are those property owners who extend their efforts along the roadside, thereby contributing immeasurably to the village approaches eg on the righthand side of the Fermoy approach. Hopefully soon the roadside verges will be reinstated following excavation. Once again there is for the most part a very high standard evident despite several untidy yards and forecourts. The stone walls are beautifully constructed. We wish you well with your future endeavours.

