

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	35
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	31	32
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	197	199

Coole, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The development of a plan to provide a focus to the tidy towns effort is essential. A simple list of annual works it is hoped to complete over a three year period is sufficient and extremely helpful in generating local community support. There are beautiful views of the surrounding countryside and it would be a wonderful tribute to the community to have that quality reflected in the village through efforts of the tidy town committee.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Generally the built environment is pleasant. . The Inny Inn and Meehans Lounge are both freshly presented. The Coole Post Office is a bit dull and could do with redecoration. The church is a delight with tidy clean car park to front, small grave yard with ewe trees and fine grounds with the addition of a grotto. Some new housing construction has broken some walls but presumably this is temporary and will be repaired when housing work is completed. National School is well presented with nice tidy lawns. Midland Health Board building presentation is a bit sterile although there is a shrub pot in front entrance. The old hospital is still out of commission and this state is reflected in its appearance.

LANDSCAPING

Just beyond the Midland Health Board there is a grass frontage with seating which is well presented, and nearby a tennis court and hall. The old Forge Garden Centre is very well presented. Around the post office cross roads there are grassed areas with some seating and a floral area with litter bin. There is a boat floral display here but it is somewhat stressed and needs attention.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The rural location of Coole should provide many opportunities for suitable projects under this heading. In identifying projects seek the advice of ENFO - a public information service established by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government or contact your area wildlife ranger.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no major problem with litter control. Next year you might give details of your programme of activities.

TIDINESS

The Community Hall floral boxes do their best to improve what is not a particularly attractive building. There is some wall weed along a run of bungalows which run close to the Community Hall. Some dereliction on the Granard road opposite the Inny Pub which needs attention. Green areas within the village not particularly tidy and there is some wall weed on the road up the garage.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Overall standard of residential areas was good and in some cases

some very fine houses with delightful front gardens were noted. In the central area a curtain of cypress hedging frames both sides leading towards an attractive stoned flower bed outside a private house. To the left is an amenity area with seating and floral displays and a line of trees matched by similar grass area to right

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The access road to Coole from Lismacaffrey has fine hedgerows on either side but little has been done to the grass verges. The entrance to Coole from the Castlepollard Road is very well presented with a fine private garden to the left with well maintained walls and grass verge, and this continues with fine displays of mature indigenous trees. The Granard road has some nice verge development with mature trees. Grass due for cutting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Coole is a quiet rural village with excellent potential to exploit the wildlife and natural amenities of its surrounding countryside. Through its Tidy Towns Committee much of the community spirit required can be generated.