

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	29	27
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	21	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	225	221

Coolaney, Co. Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your excellent map, proposed plans for the future and interesting supporting material. Your plans display a thoughtful approach to the future development and presentation of the village as it grows. Your village prize scheme is an innovative idea, and your plans to work closely with future housing developments are also admirable. It is good to note that plans for the railway are progressing and we look forward to their effective completion.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Tidy Towns Committee is taking a positive step in its future plans regarding the overall presentation of the village. Once again the overall impression of the village is good with many well-maintained premises and houses. Some premises need some attention to their presentation. The railings at the Garda station could be repainted. The traditional townhouse, with its original sash windows, that lies empty beside the Riverside Inn deserves the committee's attention.

LANDSCAPING

Flowerbeds, tubs, hanging baskets all looked very well. Your tree planting on approach roads also look very well, although the trees around the monument mentioned in previous reports have failed. Some attractive window boxes were noted at the premises beside the Post Office, O'Grady's and Maureen's bar. There are also additional opportunities for judicious tree planting in the streetscape, similar to your effective planting on the approach roads. The novel horse and cart outside The Happy Landing is an unusual and quirky addition to the streetscape. Your unique fountain is also a lovely feature that may look better if some of the natural deposits were cleaned off the lovely fountain stone. The Millennium Park looks very well, your wheelchair access was very thoughtful and the imaginative presentation of your millennium award was noted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Riparian walk with its lovely painted sign is a wonderful asset to the village. Many other towns and villages would indeed be envious of this lovely feature and the hard work you have completed to date to suitably enhance this area. The new features looked well. I would be concerned about the choice of screening at the rear of the new house overlooking the river and hope it will not affect the walk in the long term.

LITTER CONTROL

Some litter and plastic bags were noted in the river at the Rockfield side. Your diligence in this important area of the competition was noted and involving the school in your work is an excellent idea. You should perhaps consider a uniform presentation of your plentiful bins and install an additional bin in the Millennium Park area similar to the one at the other side of the walk.

TIDINESS

The whole area around the football pitch has improved greatly and looks well with its painted walls and new ground surface. The previously admired old shed on the Templehouse Road needs some attention although the tidy grass was noted. This adjudicator was disappointed to see the wrecked cars in the unscreened area at the boardwalk of the Riparian walk. Good screening gates were noted throughout the village and many properties had very tidy side areas and backyards. Beer barrels were noted on the footpaths outside some of the pubs, which look unsightly and can interfere with access for the disabled/pedestrians. Some building debris needs to be removed from the back of the housing development in the centre of the village and the back area of the Riverside Inn also needs attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The new housing development looked well and I assume the wild grass area in the corner is a wildlife area. The majority of the premises looked well maintained and presented with some lovely flower features and gardens noted at many individual homes.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some stonewalls on the Templehouse road are worth the committee's attention, they could be tidied and presented more effectively. Rockfield Cemetery looked very tidy but the Coolaney sign on this road could be presented to the same standard as the others. There are some features just outside the village boundaries, the bridge on the Green Road, the small railway building on the New Line, that are unique to your area and should be considered as future projects.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Coolaney with its unusual wide street and colourful streetscape continues to be a pleasant place to visit. The Tidy Towns Committee and community are to be commended for their continued enthusiasm and hard work. Attention to detail and perseverance should be the mainstays of your future work so that Coolaney can optimise its full potential effectively in this competition.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/01)

The attractive welcome signs on approach roads were

greatly admired as were the abundant number of newly planted trees. Attractive planting by the bridge was noted and admired. Do discourage advertising hoardings, particularly those in bad condition as they can give an unfortunate first impression of a village. All of the buildings on the main streets were generally very fresh. However, the rusty railings and the pillars of the Garda Station were still in need of some attention and should be freshly painted before next year's competition. An abandoned bus in a field was visible from the Riparian Walk and created a bad impression. However, in general the village looked extremely well cared for on adjudication day.