

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **COOLRAIN**  
County : **LAOIS**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	--
The Built Environment	40	29	--
Landscaping	40	29	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	--
Litter Control	40	36	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	23	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	--
General Impression	10	7	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>--</b>

# **Coolrain, County Laois**

## **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. Well done on raising funds through the set dancing festival. You really need to get a 3 to 5 year plan together so as to set a progression of developments in place which will produce long term benefits for the community.

## **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The roof and surrounds of the Church of Ireland at Antrim look very fine. Within the village note was taken of houses and premises nicely dressed with flower boxes notably the pub, the two storey houses, and Sheerins thatched roofed pub. The terrace of old style but relatively new terrace of cottages look well. Also, there is a nicely presented thatched cottage to left. Unfortunately, there are some delapidated buildings notably at the corner of the Limerick Road entrance to the village, within the village itself, and near the old mill.

## **LANDSCAPING**

To left and right of Limerick Road entrance are nicely presented and planted trees in verges. The old sandstone wall leading to St. Kavans and St. Judes is well maintained. Around St. Judes there are some weeds at the butt end of the wall. The church itself looks fine with its new roof, graveyard and grounds are fairly well presented. St. Kavan's requires a lot of work and some restoration before it can be accessed. Coming in from the opposite end of the village the planter at the junction to St. Judes church needs maintenance. Better screening of saw mills required. On one side quite a nice piece of planting has been done, but none on the other side.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Some work could be done to the development of wildlife along the stream. It promises to be an important wildlife habitat and with better access it could be a strong part of your Tidy Towns programme. With its natural trees, shrubs, and hedgerows the area should be rich in its variety wildlife. The adjudicator was pleased to note your success in ensuring the survival of the red squirrel.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

As would be expected, there was evidence of good litter control throughout the village. Nice to see the 5 recycling bins on site.

## **TIDINESS**

There were weedy kerb sides at a number of locations. Of its nature a certain level of untidiness accompanies the work of timber yards. Better screening would help overcome this aspect.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There were a number of attractive bungalows and houses throughout the area notably near Antrim Church. Near the Coolrain sign on the Limerick Road side is a series of small houses to the left and brightly yellow coloured walls and house to the right with good garden and flowers to front.

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

The approach from the Limerick road has stone wall and cut verge with newly planted trees along the left and looks very well. At the sign for Coolrain there is a nice bed of flowers and closer to village, further cut verges. The verges around the Old Schoolhouse Restaurant have been cut but not maintained on both.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

General impression is that a lot of tree planting has taken place and great to see that. Coolrain offers excellent opportunity for wildlife development. All the basics are there, natural habitats, stream and bridges.