

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	231	225

Coolaney, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Coolaney Tidy Towns Committee is certainly a large one for the size of the village – 10% of the population appear to be members! Your endeavours to get the national school children involved in litter awareness is obviously paying off. The general paint scheme is a marvelous initiative. Many thanks for the numerous leaflets which are very useful and informative for visitors to the area. For next year's competition perhaps you should go back to your three year work plan and identify what you have achieved and what is yet to be done. Good luck with future developments such as that to the community park and the mill project.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the buildings of the village looked extremely fresh on adjudication day although one or two were not to the same high standard. The new colour scheme is working well – the adjudicator was particularly impressed by its use at the old people's housing as it gives developments such as these a definite individuality. The Community Centre looked very fresh in its central location with attractive window boxes. The Post Office was fine, JJ O' Grady's, The Stop and Shop, and the Happy Landing were all extremely fresh. An elaborate gabled building on the main street is quite charming and would benefit from a fresh coat of paint.

LANDSCAPING

The monument at the Temple House Road junction was simply presented. The fountain and waterfall feature at the end of Main Street was neatly presented and the attractive planting adjacent was admired. The Riparian Walk incorporating the Millennium Park looked as well as ever – the adjudicator was pleased to note the placement of the Green Town 2000 award in a rock at this location. The graveyard on the Rockfield Road was also well maintained.

WILDLIFE

Coolaney is extremely fortunate in this regard with its marvelous riverside area and Riparian Walk incorporating a wildlife sanctuary. Its close proximity to the Ox Mountains and various walks and rambles make it a fascinating area for the nature lover. Some cheerful yellow bog irises were noted to the riverside on the Rockfield Road.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good. Minor outbreaks were noted along the Rockfield Road and at the Temple House Road crossroads. A single bottle was noted on the walk down to the Millennium Park from the main street.

TIDINESS

The village has a generally neat and ordered appearance. There are far too many advertising hoardings on approach roads and these should be discouraged. The derelict cottage on the Temple House Road should be repainted as it is looking somewhat shabby at the moment. The placement of the recycling bins at the entrance area to the community field is quite discreet and appropriate.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The new council houses behind the Millennium Park seemed to be quite in scale and appropriate to the village. The flower beds at the houses on the main street in this location looked most cheerful. New housing developments such as Cluain Áine and Slíabh Gamph are coming along well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The tubs planted with perennials along the wide main street are suitably cheerful without being over fussy. The adjudicator was pleased to note that your new lamp standards, although described as ornate in your application form, are in fact quite simple and most suitable for a rural town environment. Along Middle Road the grass verges were well kept and the stone planted bed with village nameplate sign was admired. New trees in this location are coming along nicely. The Temple House Road was of a similar standard. This is an attractive approach to the village with its overhanging trees and abundance of bird life - attractive wild daisies were admired. The Rockfield Road was to a similar high standard and the wide main street looked most impressive.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Coolaney is a simple traditional Irish village set in the magnificent scenery of the Ox Mountains. Although it gives the impression of a quite sleepy place it was certainly a hive of activity on a sunny but blustery adjudication day.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/2002)

Litter control was good again at the time of second adjudication with just a minor outbreak noted at a picnic table on the Riparian Walk. The interpretive panel should be repainted as it is an excellent feature. Additional information on the geological significance of the area should be included. The proximity of Coolaney to Glen Wood is to your advantage and enhances the amenity value of the village, could this be capitalized upon further? The cemetery looked well. Some buildings could be refurbished. The dated beer signs should definitely be removed or replaced. The Garda Station would benefit from having its green area landscaped and piers for railings refurbished. It was good to note the wire-scape free status of the main street, the area

at the bridge would benefit from similar treatment. A good overall presentation. We look forward to charting your future progress.