

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Coolagown**

Ref: **478**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **235**

Category: **A**

Date: **03/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	39
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	37	36
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	235	231

Overall Developmental Approach:

Great commitment is evident from both the large membership of 35 persons in the Tidy Towns Committee and the presentation of the Image Enhancement Plan. Additional information with the application form and the content of the Image Enhancement Plan give an excellent view of the current work achieved and the focus for the future. The adoption of the theme of the association of the village with horses is excellent and gives the village uniqueness.

The Built Environment:

The built environment consists really of a small number of buildings all of which are very well presented. The church is maintained to a high standard. The Last Furlong looks especially well. A very important aspect of the built environment consists of the enormous amount of well-built and maintained walls, which form a great characteristic of the village. The stud farm buildings look well. Stone-fronted plant containers are used attractively to display the plantings. The old forge is nicely treated - the stone and the painted doors are attractively presented.

Landscaping:

The very good theme of well-kept grass verges, hedging and fences and wall boundaries gives a tremendous unifying character to this village. Gardens contribute well also to the village landscape.

The stud farm hedges, grown in the traditional manner with well-tended trimming, look very well. Trees planted along the footpath towards the village from the church do look well, but their position is a little difficult to understand. As these trees grow, they occupy more of the walking space of the path. The paths do not have a proper surface for walking at present and if these are surfaced in the future, they may interfere with the trees. The planted shrub borders along the roadside entrances look very attractive and are a good asset. The roadside rose hedge on the corner at the Last Furlong is a beautiful sight. The many containerised paintings through the village gives a nice impression and adds seasonal colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Notice was taken of the bird boxes and hopefully these will attract nesting birds. Forestry walks are always a fruitful way of availing of the appreciation of wildlife. Local knowledge is also helpful so that the information can be passed on to the next generation. Very often knowledge exists that can tell what, where, and when particular wild life can be observed in an area. Any advice from Dúchas (or its replacement) would be helpful in this regard. A number of thorn hedges also contribute well to the wildlife interest.

Litter Control:

There appears to be a very good litter programme in place with the entire village looking very clean. The campaigns that are organised are working to good effect. Constant vigilance is needed to ensure that litter can be kept at bay.

Tidiness:

Some disruption due to new building developments were noted but these are temporary in nature and hopefully these will be reinstated well. The underground ducting is a great advantage in a village. New kerbing was noted and the high standard of so timber fences in many places was admired.

Residential Areas:

The small number of residences are well tended and add to the entire picture of the village. Houses on the approach roads contribute well to the appearance of those approach roads. There is a great sense of pride taken in homes through the village .

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Good road surfaces are in place. At some places, such as along by the Grain stores where new paths are laid, the side of the road surfacing meeting those kerbs has not been completed. As stated above, the surface of the paths approaching the church from the Last Furlong do not have a proper all year hard surface. The trees on these paths will present an access problem in future years. The townland name plates were noted and are discreetly placed.

General Impression:

The theme of horses and the motif on the gates set a lovely image to the village, This creates unity and a sense of place about the village, which can be identified easily.

Second Round Adjudication:

Coolagown's most striking visual feature is its lengthy stretches of beautifully presented grass verge backed by quality timber fencing. High (healthy) hedgerow which marks the southern entrance was admired also. New namestone and nameplates, together with amenity features, such as the anvil

were appreciated. Litter control was excellent throughout. Well done! A high standard of presentation has been achieved for the Final Furlong Bar and Lounge. Recently planted trees appear to be establishing themselves well. Residential properties are well presented overall and new developments are currently under construction; no doubt a similar high standard will be achieved for these. The church looked well as did the picnic amenity area. We wish you every success with the forge project and look forward to seeing it next year.