

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Coolrain**

Ref: **6**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **211**

Category: **A**

Date: **02/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	27
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	211	212

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your entry to Tidy Towns 2003. It is encouraging to see you are receiving community support and that FAS and Laois County Council support your efforts. The number of new houses built or under construction underlines your need for a 3 to 5 year plan for village development.

The Built Environment:

The timber yards looked reasonably tidy but are never the less a difficult area for the main street presentation. Sheerins Village Inn looks a delightful thatched pub. The nearby group of cottages look well, set above the planted embankment. The recently re-thatched cottage looks well, along with its continuation wall and splendid garden on the opposite side of the road. There is an open site beside the old mill due for development. The mill, both left and right of the bridge is in ruins. The tower of St. Kevans ruined church is roofed, but access is bad. St. Judes Church looks fine with its new roof and the grounds are neat and tidy. There is new housing in this area which has brought with it new walls and entrances like the Celtic Hereford Herd Brickley and the house opposite which augurs well for Coolrain's future

Landscaping:

The verges on both sides have been cut and the village sign is nicely set. This area around the Olde

Schoolhouse Restaurant is very pleasant with cut verges and mature hedging. The planter in the middle of the road on the way up to St.Judes Church requires weeding and upkeep. Verges left and right where the upper road rejoins the main road are very nicely maintained, with trees and trimmed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is a delightful wildlife area with natural countryside and stream. There is good signposting for St.Kevans Church and well, Camross Poets Cottage and the Laois Heritage Trail. The adjudicator was pleased to note your success in attracting some owl along with the continued population of red squirrel.

Litter Control:

Sorry to read of the closure of your shop. There was evidence of good litter control throughout the village. Good to see the 5 recycling bins on site.

Tidiness:

Unfortunately, at least one of the screening trees adjacent to the recycling bins have been vandalised. There are a number of derelict sites both in and on access roads to the village.

Residential Areas:

The connection to the village is broadly verge and hedging but again there is dereliction to the left just before Prescotts Pub. To the right there is a stone wall and house with window boxes opposite Sheerins Pub.

As indicated under the Built Environment there are a number of interesting and very colourfully presented houses within the village. In addition there are an unusual number of new houses and houses under construction in the surrounding area which in a short time will display attractive gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach into Coolrain from the Limerick Road has some fine stone walls and at the village cut verge, with rather weeded planters. There is some dereliction to the right but on the opposite side is a colourfully displayed house with floral window boxes. The road surface is somewhat damaged, and footpaths are in a bad way. There is little wire scape.

General Impression:

Coolrain is attracting a new population into its environs. The quality of some of the new houses is excellent and should have good implications for the future. The tree planting programme is bearing fruit. The village has great potential as a wild life sanctuary.