

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Coolgreany**

Ref: **705**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **198**

Category: **B**

Date: **05/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	32	33
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	19	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	198	197

Overall Developmental Approach:

Do formulate a three to five year work programme. This document need only be two or three pages long, outlining your strengths and weaknesses, identifying problem areas, and setting a time frame in which you intend achieving your objectives. This document will prove extremely useful both for yourselves and adjudicators in years to come, as it tracks your progress over time. The committee of five seems rather small, given the size of the town, and its evident importance in the area. Do try to enlist more support from the local community in order to help your cause.

The Built Environment:

The commercial premises of the town were well maintained on the day. The Coolgreany Inn looked particularly fresh and welcoming. Tutty's was a hive of activity. The shop has rather a number of plastic projecting signs which should be discouraged and replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety. Do discourage the use of plastic stickers in windows as these can give the shopfront a rather cluttered appearance.

Landscaping:

The 1798 monument in stone looked fine, although some green algae growth was evident and it should be cleaned down. The magnificent lime trees marching down the side of main street on grass

verges are a magnificent asset to the town and were well maintained. The grotto looked well cared on the day.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It seems quite telling that you have left this section of the questionnaire blank. There was much evidence of birdlife, in particular rooks, on adjudication day. Coolgreany is indeed fortunate with its marvelous natural asset of the riverside so close to the town. As said in last year's report, be sure to enlist the help of local experts, in order to get advise on the maintenance of your local wildlife habitats.

Litter Control:

You have already identified this as a problem area. Litter control on the day could have been better. Papers were evident on Main Street, in the vicinity of the bridge, and along the Arklow approach road. You should invest in extra litter bins in order to try to tackle this problem. Perhaps you should consider more frequent litter pick-ups!

Tidiness:

Weed control was a distinct problem on the day. Weeds were evident at the base of the directional signs opposite the grotto and at the base of the stone walls to the bridge - these appeared to have been sprayed but the dead weeds had yet to be removed. More weeds were evident at the kerb sides along Main Street and at the roadside in front of the cottages in this location. The scrapyard with its cars is still a problem by the bridge - perhaps these could be more successfully screened from public view. A rusty barrel by the bridge itself created a bad impression.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was very good. The Knockgreany estate on the Tinahely Road was well maintained as were the individual houses and gardens along this road. The attractive single storey cottages on Main Street are of a distinct and attractive character. The house and garden behind the railings, adjacent to the bridge, was greatly admired, as was the cottage garden behind the box hedge opposite.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surfaces on approach roads were not in the best of condition - a number of potholes were evident. Weed control along these roads (all of which afford the traveller magnificent views of the surrounding countryside) could have been improved upon - weeds were evident in a number of locations. The jaunty foxgloves on the Tinahely Road add a welcome splash of colour. Do try to ensure that, in order to achieve a natural appearance, you strike a balance between over-manicured approach roads and those that appear neglected. Litter was evident on the Arklow Road, although the verges had been cut back. The colourful pansies at the welcome sign were admired. This road deteriorated rather sharply after this. In terms of street furniture, signage appeared rather grubby. Although the telephone box was in good condition, in its prominent location on Main Street, the door appeared to be missing. The approach road from the main N11 was fine.

General Impression:

Coolgreany is a very busy town with much activity evident. It has its own unique charm and character. Weed control and litter were both distinct problems on the day, however.

