Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Coolagown** Ref: **184**

County: **Cork North** Mark: **241**

Category: **A** Date: **02/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	38	37
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	**300**	**241**	**235**

Overall Developmental Approach:

In drawing up your Image Enhancement Plan, the community set targets which are being pursued in a co-ordinated manner. There seems to be good support for the Development Group's efforts in the community and this is essential for progress. The comprehensive data together with map submitted with the entry was very useful.

The Built Environment:

The church is a prominent building in the village and it was nicely painted together with the surrounding walls. The "Last Furlong" is a colourfully painted premises. Throughout the village there are obviously a number of buildings connected with the bloodstock industry and these are presented to a good standard. The large stores of McDonald Bros. were well maintained and presented.

Landscaping:

Landscaping work throughout the village is good. The stretches of green hedging across from the church was very neatly trimmed and obviously well maintained. The green areas here were also well attended to. The flower beds near the church were carefully maintained. The colourful flower pots within the church grounds also looked well. The tree planting along the village area looked

well. In fact good landscaping work continued through the village from the Castlelyons approach to the Fermoy N72 approach. In all cases where there were green areas, the grass was also neatly trimmed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is noted that you have sought specialist advice on the development of a wildlife project in the vicinity of the village. This is a good step as this needs to be dealt with carefully. It is also an excellent idea to involve school pupils in this project as it will serve to give an appreciation of such a facility in the vicinity to the children at an early age. There is little doubt that being located in such a pleasant countryside some very worthwhile wildlife project can be developed. The positioning of bird boxes is noted.

Litter Control:

The community is to be complimented for putting in place the anti litter signs "Please don't litter our town" at the main approach roads to the village. These signs are tastefully done and do make an impact on visitors to the village. Full marks to the school pupils who designed then - their elders have no choice but to obey them! Litter is a constant problem for all communities and it needs to be a top priority for all centres. In your case there seems to be a good level of control and these efforts should be continued for the future. Again involving the schools here is a very good idea as it creates an awareness of the litter problem at an early age. Entering the Muintir na Tire and County Council litter projects is another positive step - all combine to raise the awareness level of this problem.

Tidiness:

The village stretches over quite a long area and obviously there is a good level of tidiness throughout. The area in the vicinity of the church was indeed very tidy. Also grounds adjoining the church building were very neatly maintained. There was also a good level of tidiness in areas which opened into fields, yards etc. Also the area adjoining the large stores at the eastern end of the village was quite tidy. The tidiness of the immediate area of the housing scheme will be hindered by this development until completion has taken place.

Residential Areas:

The new housing development in the vicinity of the church is noted. It is encouraging that an appropriate landscaping project will accompany this development and the community should ensure that this is satisfactorily completed. The existing houses in the village are well maintained and the residents obviously make the necessary effort. Overall a pleasant atmosphere is provided.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads leading to the village are quite well maintained. The flower planting at the entry points to the village are welcoming. The seat by the church is nicely painted and the picnic table in the nearby green area is well maintained. The new railing/fencing which has been put in place along the village area looks well. The positioning of plaques in a number of locations throughout the village, giving names of various townlands with acreages etc. is a most interesting initiative. The large sign "Failte Cul an Ghabann," which has been tastefully created at the Fermoy approach is very impressive. The development of the Forge project is noted. In view of the emphasis of equine activity in the area this is an appropriate project for the village and when completed should attract considerable attention. Meanwhile a stone plaque and anvil in another area of the village commemorating an old forge is a nice development.

General Impression:

This is a most pleasant village set in beautiful countryside. The community is making the most of its

identification with the horse which obviously is deeply rooted in the area. But in addition to that a considerable amount of work has been done to enhance an already very attractive community.

Second Round Adjudication:

Approach roads and entrances to Coolagown are magnificent in presentation ranging from neatly maintained grass verges through to mature hedgerows, trees of varying ages, and interesting items of equipment from days gone by not to mention colourful flower beds; everyone concerned is to be commended, well done! The village looked wonderful on a wet, gray, damp August morning. Some stretches of roadside verge have yet to be resurfaced, no doubt this will occur in due course. We note work in progress on a new housing initiative and wish you well in bringing new residents on board the 'Tidy Towns train'. We look forward to your proposed development under the Neighbourwood Scheme, this will enhance the amenity and wildlife status of your village considerably. Congratulations on involving school children in the wildlife project and indeed on the professional approach adopted by the committee, we anticipate the completed signs with interest. It is a pleasure to note that you have successfully identified what is unique to Coolagown and are finding a variety of ways to promote this. Litter control was excellent. A fine presentation! we proudly acknowledge the part played by local voluntary labour in activities ranging from kerb setting to litter control, grass mowing, etc. and look forward to next years visit.