

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Coolgreany**

Ref: **648**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **202**

Category: **B**

Date: **21/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>198</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. Coolgreany has great potential in the competition but the effort seems to be unplanned. Reference is made therefore to last year's Adjudicator's comments regarding the production of a three/five year working program, the idea being that you would set out on a year to year basis what environmental project you could undertake within your physical and financial resources. You could precede this report with a survey of the village in order to identify areas for development. You should seek the support and help of Wexford County Council in such an exercise. Indeed, it is gratifying to see that you continue to have their support and that of FAS and, most importantly, your local community for your efforts to date. Perhaps the production of such a report could be a matter for a public meeting to which you would invite the agencies concerned and which, in the event, might generate more support locally for you. You received an in depth report from the Adjudicator last year. The following, therefore, is by way of comments on perceived further progress to date and should be read in tandem with that report.

### The Built Environment:

Your School and its surroundings look very nice. The GAA Centre is being well maintained but the surroundings are somewhat untidy. Coolgreany does not have very many commercial premises but again, this year the Coolgreany Inn and Tutty's looked well. However, the comments made by last year's Adjudicator under this heading regarding signage is still applicable. The Grotto is a nice

feature but, within the context of a Development Plan could be improved.

### **Landscaping:**

The march of trees down the Main Street is to be much admired and the 1798 monument is also being well maintained. Part of any future planning should include landscaping and the identification of where this could happen. Spaces between the trees might be utilised as should indeed open spaces particularly in the areas of housing estates. Consider further tree planting and planting of shrubs which would give you some colour on an all-year round basis. Planting in the school grounds is very nice and is being very well maintained. Where presented hanging baskets created a nice vista around the village. Do encourage more of these together with containerised planting and window boxes. Landscaping is a very specialised subject and, in the event, do consult with your local authority or some person locally who would be knowledgeable on such a project.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your comments under this heading have been noted. The bridge and river area would be an ideal site for such a project. Initially however you might consider encouraging your school children to take on a wildlife project in the form of nesting boxes and feeding tables for birds and possibly a wildlife notice board showing what can be seen locally. Again, perhaps there is somebody in the locality or one of the teachers who would be knowledgeable on the subject and who would then render you assistance otherwise talk to Duchas or its successor.

### **Litter Control:**

In general, the village was comparatively litter free but unfortunately minor littering was to be seen in the area of the abandoned building near the bridge, near the school and in the gutters. What is called for is a concerted anti-litter campaign aimed at residents and school children alike and the provision of additional litter bins suitably sited. A very suitable subject for a public meeting. It is an important part of the competition and needs constant monitoring.

### **Tidiness:**

While the village is generally not untidy it has, nevertheless an air of untidiness about it. This is mainly due to car parking, the scrap yard at the end of the town, open storage and weeding. Again, in any future planning, you will need to give serious consideration to these matters and how they can be put right.

### **Residential Areas:**

Both Knockgreany and the Croghan View housing estates were visited. Houses are being very well maintained. Open spaces at Knockgreany look well while half of the open space at the Croghan Estate was uncut on adjudication day. If you have not already done so you should try to form Residents Associations in both these estates and have them on your committee. It does get to a point where the maintenance of open spaces gets beyond the capability of a voluntary group and may require assistance from your Local Authority or FAS. Comments made in last year's report are still applicable. The terraced houses in the Main Street look very nice. The outside of some however could do with refurbishment. Many of the individual houses had lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day which were a joy to see. This creates a very nice ambience around the village and reflects great credit on their owners and their interest in their environment. It is also an important part of the competition. You cannot hope to succeed without this type of individual effort. Well done to all concerned.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Approach roads to the village were reasonably well presented. Adjudication normally takes place

either between the village nameplate signs or the speed limit signs, whichever you opt for. Roads from thereon in should be strimmed but bearing in mind the advice given in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding the preservation of wild flowers and wildlife habitat. Many of the comments made in last year's report are still applicable although there does seem to be some improvement in road surfaces and pathways, in general, are being well maintained, particularly in and near the housing estates.

### **General Impression:**

Future progress in the competition will rely very much on planning and attention to detail and, in this respect, Coolgreany has a lot to do. Excellent work has been done to date and great credit is due to the committee for their efforts. However a concerted effort is now called for involving FAS, Wexford County Council and your community. Many centres have been through this process and are now looking resplendent. The Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Coolgreany again next year in the expectation that such resplendence will have commenced in the village. Keep up the good work.