

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Coolaney**

Ref: **577**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **240**

Category: **A**

Date: **02/04/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	240	235

Overall Developmental Approach:

The high rating achieved by Coolaney in last years National Tidy Towns Competition is of no surprise to this adjudicator. Coolaney was looking exceptional on adjudication day and it was obvious that the people of Coolaney have pride in the village and a determination to make further progress in their efforts to obtain national recognition.

The adjudicator is greatly impressed with the presentation of Coolaney and your proposal to revise your strategy is very positive and forward looking now that your current plan will shortly be out of date.

Thank you for the entry form and support documentation which focused greatly on the very rural nature of the local environment - same were of great help to the adjudicator.

Last years report was very constructive and positive in its recommendations and should be of great benefit in revising your plan.

The Built Environment:

Good all round presentation is the norm except for a small number of unoccupied premises. The planting of mature trees in the centre of the main street is innovative and greatly improves the presentation of the streetscape. The monument and fountain were again nicely presented and represent interesting attractions.

Landscaping:

Your efforts under this heading are highly commended and as already mentioned the tree planting on the main street is a new initiative and eye catching. The river area is also nicely planted and the colourful floral presentations around the village were most impressive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The River Walk, Millennium Park and Board Walk are areas of great natural beauty and deserve great care and attention at all times. Represent a strong environmental heritage that is unique to Coolaney.

Further opportunities to highlight the wildlife habitats of the area should be identified by way of research. Such a project under the direction of a local wildlife expert should be allocated to local schools and would represent an excellent educational project.

For further guidelines you should consult the Tidy Towns Handbook (Page 107)

Litter Control:

Excellent except for the area of the bottle banks. The support of Schools, Macra and post winter clean up is noted. Well done to all involved.

Tidiness:

A clean and tidy Coolaney impressed the adjudicator greatly. Your news sheet and promotional activities to create a greater awareness of the importance of a tidy Coolaney in the context of the National Tidy Towns Competition is commended.

Residential Areas:

The new housing estate on Rockfield Road is attractively presented and the use of stone for boundary walls and on houses is impressive. Sliabh Gamph was looking extremely well this year - free of weeds and tidily presented gardens and boundary areas. The new estate on the Sligo road should look well when finished. Some individual houses were also well presented and enhance greatly the environmental presentation of the village. The old unoccupied cottage on the Galway Road was nicely tidied up. An overall good performance under this head is rewarded.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were tidily presented with neatly trimmed verges and the welcome signs with planting were a welcoming introduction to Coolaney. The area of the Bottle banks and entrance to the Community park still needs attention and a derelict building on a side roads is most unsightly but is obscured somewhat from general view and therefore not an immediate problem.

Sign posting and street furniture is well maintained, however, more prominent sign-posting of amenities (River Walk etc) on all approaches would be of great benefit in highlighting these outdoor attractions.

General Impression:

Attention to detail is now of priority to expedite progress with a view to being a serious contender for a regional or national award.

Your new strategy/plan is awaited with interest.

You have an excellent relationship with state agencies and this is benefiting you greatly.

Another Good performance this year - congratulations!

Second Round Adjudication:

Coolaney looked as well presented as ever on Second Adjudication Day. Advertising hoardings on approach roads should be actively discouraged as these give them a rather cluttered appearance. There has been a lot of development in the residential sector over recent years. Do ensure that new housing is in scale and character with the village and that it is finished to the standard required. The colourful floral displays were admired, particularly the flower bed by the bridge. Do ensure that you don't "gild the lily" however, by over-emphasis on flowers. Permanent planting and tree planting will have year round effect. The new trees marching up Main Street were greatly admired. Collery's is empty and should be restored to its former glory-do ensure the retention of its traditional timber sash windows. The tin roof to its stone outbuildings was rather rusty and quite visible from Main Street. The Post Office sign was a little flaky. The fountain was admired but the moss should be removed before next year's competition. The attractive Dutch gabled building in the centre of the village would benefit greatly from a fresh coat of paint. Do ensure that the render is not removed from traditional vernacular street houses as this is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but can also lead to problems with water penetration.