

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Coill Dubh**

Ref: **753**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **172**

Category: **B**

Date: **30/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	21
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	16	16
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	172	171

Overall Developmental Approach:

The committee membership of 13 is very sizable for the village size and good progress could be made with such a strong committee. Very little information was provided with the entry form. At this stage a plan should be formulated to map out the work that is needed over the next five years. With such planning it is important to have the views of business interests and residents. A plan would focus minds on the most pertinent needs and a time scale would give targets to be met. Such a plan is a requirement under this category in the competition.

The Built Environment:

Collie Dubh is a very interesting village on account of its origins as a Bord na Mona village and the identity of the village must be preserved. The structure of the original village provides for strong community style living with the arrangement of housing in a network pattern. The school appears in good condition. The Woodlands development is a break from the original village style and hopefully this can be incorporated in well. The shops look reasonably well – perhaps a more crisp approach to the décor could be helpful.

Landscaping:

Shrubberies at the main entrance to the Coill Dubh estate look very colourful and have all year

round effect. The grassed areas and trees are well maintained. The individual shrubs appear a little regimented in style and maybe by allowing them grow to their natural shape – at least to some extent would be helpful. There is an immense number of trees in the surrounding countryside and it would be well to link the village with these by some more tree planting where spaces can be found. Individual house gardens are generally well cared for - this offers a good contribution to the overall landscape of the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

With the rural setting and the nearby bog area there should be ample opportunities to appreciate the wildlife of the area. Involvement with the school children of the area would be helpful in this regard. Local knowledge could also be gathered so that this could be passed on to future generations.

Litter Control:

There is a good level of litter control in the village generally and the surrounds. Small amounts of litter were spotted along the roadside at places. Keeping on top of the litter situation requires constant vigilance.

Tidiness:

Because of the style of construction – the areas within the Bord na Mona housing complex have a tidy appearance. The entrance to the Woodlands Golf Club appears very cluttered and car parking is difficult. The entrance approach to Woodlands building development is very raw at present. It is important that tidy towns committees take an active role in seeing that such developments are reinstated fully and landscaped before the developers leave the sites.

Residential Areas:

The residences in the Coill Dubh estate appear well cared for. Individual houses along the roadsides are also in good condition. There is a wide variation in garden maintenance. The more gardens that look well the better the entire area appears.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The surrounding roads are very rural with attractive hedges and trees. Cutting back the vegetation on the narrow roads is important with increased traffic using the roads. Signage can easily be obscured in such cases by the roadside vegetation. The roadsides and footpaths around the entrance to the Woodview estate are very rough with many potholes.

General Impression:

Coill Dubh is an attractive and unique village . It is important to preserve the identity particularly of the main housing development complex. Some extra tree planting would be helpful to unify the village with the surrounding rural countryside

Second Round Adjudication: