

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Coole**

Ref: **484**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **207**

Category: **A**

Date: **20/07/2005**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 34 | 34 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 29 | 29 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 33 | 32 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 10 | 10 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 13 | 13 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 22 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 26 | 25 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 207 | 205 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application form and detailed map which makes judging a lot easier.

However, your submission should have included a schedule of work completed for the year and a brief three-to-five year Development Plan. This plan will help you identify what can be done to improve the village over the next few years and the resources you will require. In addition, the works-completed schedule will allow you to monitor your achievements on a regular basis.

The Coole Tidy Towns committee while few in number, continue to be proactive and works in cooperation with local community groups, the local authority and other agencies. .

The Built Environment:

It was great to see that the work on the old hospital is well and truly underway and the adjudicator looks forward to the end result. It was a pity to see that the Post Office still warrants a lot of attention. The old cottage in the centre of the village is a credit to its owner, and the church, grotto and garden centre are beautiful focal points of the village. Congratulations to all concerned. While many of the commercial and residential properties on the main street look well there are a few that would benefit from upgrading. The derelict house in the village detracts from the appearance of the village and perhaps some effort could be made to screen this off. Stone walls are an important

feature of the village, some of which require attention. The adjudicator noted that some maintenance work has been carried out and hopefully the committee will continue with their efforts. Some street furniture needs upgrading.

Landscaping:

The village is dotted with beautiful mature trees, and nicely landscaped with window boxes, hanging baskets and flower tubs. The Green area after the Health Centre, while it is nicely maintained, could be further enhanced by the introduction of some colour. The adjudicator was pleased to note the addition of flower boxes to Coole Hall as recommended in last years report and while some weeding and painting is required, the area is nicely landscaped.

The pump on the Granard Road requires attention while the one in the village centre is nicely presented, although some weed maintenance is required.

School grounds look well, however, the walls could be upgraded

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Comments made in previous reports need to be addressed. Again there is an opportunity to gain valuable extra marks by focusing more on wildlife and natural amenities.

Litter Control:

Very little litter was noted on the day of inspection and Coole's litter control scheme appears to be working. However, there were scatterings visible on some of the approach roads.

Tidiness:

The village looked neat and tidy on the day of adjudication. However, weed maintenance could be improved along some of the approach roads, at Coole Hall and at the village pump.

Residential Areas:

As in previous years the residential areas looked well and the residents' gardens reflect their hard work and commitment. Well done!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The adjudicator was pleased to note that attention had been given to the approach road from Castlepollard with the verges well trimmed and very little weeding required. The signs were nicely maintained and decorated with floral displays. Keep up the good work! However, the Edgeworthstown approach road requires attention with high verges and grubby signs. Hedges need to be cut back in some places

General Impression:

This attractive village was a pleasure to visit. The efforts of the local community are clearly visible.