

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Coolagown** Ref: **649**  
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **255**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **25/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>255</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Coolagown Development Group certainly have long areas of village and verges to maintain and you do it extremely well. At a committee of 35 this seems rather large given the village's size – most of the community must be members! You would appear to have a good working relationship with local statutory bodies including Coillte, Blackwater Resource Development Group and the Parks and Wildlife section of the Department of the Environment. You also appear to have a good working relationship with the local school in terms of litter and wildlife having encouraged the children's participation in the design of the litter signage and organised a wildlife talk at the school. The adjudicator was delighted to hear that you get such a high level of support from the local community. This must help greatly in your work. For next year's competition it would be sufficient to submit merely your application form, map of the village and your development plan.

### **The Built Environment:**

The silos at McDonnell's certainly dominate the main road. The new sculpture of the blacksmith at the reconstructed stone forge was admired. The Church looked quite fresh with its stone centre panel to the gable. The Final Furlong looked very fresh in peach tones. Rathbarry Stud has an attractive entrance area with cheerful red geraniums. The horseshoe motif to the various field's gates was greatly admired.

### **Landscaping:**

This is an area in which you excel. There are some attractive incidental spaces throughout. The new park area with its trees, bridge and picnic area was greatly admired. The welcome stone with its horseshoe motif looked well. You have used the heritage of the village in many different ways throughout – these are little items of historical significance dotted around the village such as the old trough with its water feature and the old anvil. New trees, grass verges, new timber fencing and stonewalls throughout created a good impression. The planted bed with snapdragons and geraniums on the far side of Church and montbretia at the crossroads

looked most cheerful on the day.

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

Your work in relation to clearing the Kilbarry Wood walkways of briars and gorse is commendable. The adjudicator was very impressed by your 20km cycle route for families, which is a very interesting project. The new garden and park with its butterfly corner and logs for wildlife was greatly admired. The adjudicator was impressed by the fact that you had planted native trees and wild daisies were growing to the ditches along the roadside beside the park. The butterfly corner certainly did attract many species on the day! Bird boxes were noted here and by the reconstructed forge.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good. However, some litter was evident on lead in from the crossroads and a single paper was noted on the far side of the village. Even one or two papers can create a bad impression in a village of Coolagown's size. The adjudicator was pleased to note that you are entering numerous litter competitions organised by Muintir na Tire and the County Council. Your participation in the National Spring Clean is also commendable.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Green bins were noted outside the Final Furlong. This category of the competition is really about the way in which you communicate with the local community including businesses in relation to issues of recycling and waste minimisation generally. Do read your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for promoting this aspect of the competition. The Reduce Reuse Recycle brochure is always also very useful in this regard. You could consider organising seminars in relation to waste segregation and composting.

### **Tidiness:**

The village looked extremely neat and tidy on the day.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are a number of large new detached houses on either side of the road in the village. Do ensure that these are fully finished to the highest of standards in terms of materials and landscaping in order to integrate into the fabric of the village. An attractive garden with jaunty hydrangeas in deep pink and daisies overhanging a boundary wall was greatly admired as was the hedge of a cottage garden, which sported a bird table in the vicinity of the Church. Another attractive house with geraniums on the far side of the Church was admired as was the charming thatched house with its attractive planting to the front.

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

The standard in this category was reasonably good. Approach roads really do form the first impressions one has of a village. The verges were a little overgrown leading in from the crossroads but improve closer to the centre of the village. The well kept verges on the far side of the Church looked well. Road surfaces seemed a little rough so presumably the resurfacing had yet to take place.

### **General Impression:**

Coolagown is expanding rapidly with its new housing. Do ensure that this unique charm is not lost in all the work taking place. It is an attractive village set in some magnificent rolling scenery of North Cork.