

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Coolrain** Ref: **751**
County: **Laois** Mark: **213**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	213

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks for your submission, which was helpful on the day. Do you have a work programme? It is important at this stage in the competition that you formulate one to help you with your work. The document need only be a few pages long, outlining your plans for the town and setting a timeframe against their achievement. It will help both yourselves and the adjudicators to assess how you are progressing as the years go by. You could use the contents of this and previous Tidy Towns reports as a starting point.

The Built Environment:

The few buildings of the village were, by and large, presented to a good standard on the day. Your work in relation to old walling throughout the village is commendable. Your plans to develop a tourist information board and to improve derelict sites are positive and encouraging steps. The study of the old church and crypt sounds an interesting one, and we look forward to its findings. Stone walling throughout creates a positive impression. The thatched Village Inn looked well and Prescott's pub was very fresh. St Kavan's church is an attractive one, which must have much historical significance to it.

Landscaping:

The planting of trees is always encouraged, as they will be an investment for future generations. Permanent planting is also preferable to the planting of bulbs and floral displays, as these will look good year round. The freshly painted pump looked well. Rose beds at the nameplate were admired and created a cheerful welcome.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans in relation to the planting of trees and grasses to encourage wildlife are sensible and appropriate.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good throughout – the regular pick up rota is obviously paying off! The very odd item of litter was noted on approach roads. Your plans to talk to schools in relation to litter control are noted and applauded.

Waste Minimisation:

This category relates to waste management, segregation, recycling and composting issues. Do read your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for furthering this aspect of the competition. The Race Against Waste Brochure also contains some good ideas. Are the local schools at Pike of Rushall and Camross participating in the Green Flags initiative? If so, they could be of great assistance to you in relation to these issues. The recycling area was well maintained.

Tidiness:

We appreciate the problems you have in relation to the derelict property and hopefully this issue will be resolved in the not too distant future. Weeds were apparent at kerbs along the Mountrath road.

Residential Areas:

The attractive single storey house on the Mountrath road with abundant hanging baskets and tubs was admired. The thatched cottage is quite charming with its cheerful red door. Houses adjacent to the Village Inn were admired, as were those opposite Prescott's, with their colourful displays. A house in the village centre, which appeared to have been a shop at some stage, looked somewhat neglected.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Mountrath road, although the grass verges had been cut, the dead grass had not been removed. The relatively new trees were coming along nicely on this road. New footpaths and walling in this location were admired. The area opposite the Village Inn appeared quite rough.

General Impression:

Coolrain is a peaceful and charming village, which was a pleasure to visit for the first time. There are a number of issues contained in this report, which will need addressing before next year's competition.