

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Cootehall** Ref: **281**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **198**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>198</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the interesting photographs which show the activities of the residents and the committee during very useful work at the spring cleanup and other works in the village. This is obviously generating a great community spirit and is very helpful in this respect. It is good to see young people participating in the work. The plan was not submitted with the entry form this year – it would be good to submit this each year so that it could be used as a yardstick of progress from year to year. Cootehall is going through a major transition since last year with the massive building programme that has commenced – this is a huge upheaval for the village and people will need to be patient while all this work proceeds.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Catholic Church looks very well as does Henrys premises. These seemingly were once the core of the village and now appear standing in isolation from the massive development. Work going on behind Henrys adds to the turmoil at the moment. The comments made about the house with the Eircel sign last year apply still. The Water Splash pub looks well and the River Bridge restaurant has a lovely position, the adjoining building is rather unattractive and hopefully something can be done to relieve this. The school needs some attention to the weather stained walls.

### **Landscaping:**

The picnic area is well presented with the flower filled boat, well cared for grass and picnic tables. There has been much weed killing around the village and the dead weeds look unsightly – maybe these could be burned off with a flame thrower or else if the weed killer is applied earlier next year to prevent the weed growth in the first place. A number of houses have attractive gardens which add to the overall landscape of the village. The flower containers and small landscaped areas around the village add a nice amount of summer colour to the village. The uncompleted/ unsurfaced car park at the marina hopefully will be finished soon

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The waterfront areas offer very good potential for appreciation of the natural environment and it would be good to develop some projects in this regard. Consult the tidy towns handbook for information on this aspect. As stated last year, often there are good possibilities in the nearby locality to observe wildlife and nature as well, of course, of the great asset of the waterfront which is on the doorstep.

**Litter Control:**

The litter control is good and the work as portrayed in the photographs shows great commitment. The involvement of schoolchildren participating is excellent. With all the forthcoming development work it will be important to keep the village clean and avoid any debris that results from the building development.

**Waste Minimisation:**

It is noted that at the spring cleanup there was segregation of materials which is excellent. Hopefully this continues with all litter collections. The striving of the school for the green flag is a great idea and hopefully this will be achieved. Working with the local authorities is very important in this sector. This aspect of the competition is about concentrating both on the need to choose materials and methods that avoid producing waste and to consider environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste that is generated. A campaign of awareness with both homeowners and business people needs to be started to give an understanding of the importance of waste management and recycling. Compost heaps can be made for green materials, avoidance of using materials that do not degrade easily and separation of the various materials so that they can be recycled.

**Tidiness:**

The area by the picnic tables and waterside is very tidy. The repairs to the walls have been very useful in presenting a tidy appearance. The walls are being disturbed now with the developments and it is important that when all the work is complete that walls are reinstated by the developers. The area outside the River bridge restaurant is untidy with materials strewn about at the sheds.

**Residential Areas:**

The current small number of residences is well maintained. These houses have a fair amount of variety which makes for an interesting village. The Mount Eagle development does not have a lived in appearance and the landscape looks very drab as a result. The new developments will be watched carefully as it would be a shame if they appeared like as if they were dropped from a city suburb without reference to the nature of the village where they are being built. Landscaping will be key to their success of incorporation into the village scene.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The roads are reasonable well cared for in a village of this type. Again with all the trucks involved in the new developments damage to roadways is likely and a watchful eye needs to be kept to ensure all is reinstated at the completion of the all works.

**General Impression:**

Cootehall is set for a major change and this will have a major implication for the core of the village. The waterfront areas will remain intact happily except for the extra traffic that will be generated. A watchful eye must be made by the committee on all aspects of the proposed development work.