

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cootehill** Ref: **52**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **237**
Category: **D** Date(s): **19/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	14
Tidiness	30	5
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	237

Overall Development Approach:

Cootehill Tidy Towns Committee are welcome to the 2007 competition. It would seem to be a small one (at 4 members) given the towns' size? You would appear, however, to have a good relationship with the local Cootehill Council, Chamber of Commerce, schools and residents groups. We were pleased to read that you find the work rewarding as well as enjoyable and that it gives you a sense of community. Have you put together a work programme as suggested in last year's report? This document need only be a few pages long, outlining your plans for the town and setting a timeframe for achieving them. You will find it helpful in order to clearly see where your weaknesses are and will also help you see your progress as the years go by. You could use the comments contained in this report and those of previous years as a starting point.

The Built Environment:

Cootehill is very fortunate with regard to the many fine buildings that it contains in prominent locations of the town. The imposing stone Catholic Church had beautifully maintained grounds. The AIB Bank dominated the Station Road approach and looked well. The Church of Ireland terminated the vista of Main Street. The Courthouse looked well in stone. The main streets of the town were well presented on the day, for the most part, particularly the wide main street, with its trees maturing well. Bridge Street properties including Joli Visage and the Cutting Edge also looked well. Some premises still sported their up and down sash windows and their retention is commendable. The Koh I Noor looked very fresh, as did the Ulster Bank and Shakira. Work on the landscaping at the Church of Ireland and Fire Station were laudable, as is your work with developers of estates and other properties. We look forward to seeing the work at the Courthouse in years to come. The new fresh Fire Station looked well, with attractive planting. The barbers shop was very fresh, as was the West End Bar. Do discourage plastic signage and encourage its replacement with traditional timber signs – Hannigan's signage appears somewhat out of scale. The modern Post Office was admired. The Library and Arts Centre looked well, as did the stone Presbyterian Church. Darley National School was quite

fresh.

Landscaping:

There were some marvellous displays of flowers in cascading tiers on the approach roads. The work at the Fire Station and Church of Ireland have been commented on previously. Work at the Holy Family School junction and the Fair Green are also to be applauded. Your plans for the Fair Green areas are looked forward to. The fencing, hedging and maturing trees at the playing pitch of the school was admired. The grotto in this vicinity was also well maintained. The landscaping and hedging at the Industrial Estate was admired and looked well. The Errigal Court House Hotel had attractive landscaping. The table and chairs at the Griffith Avenue need repainting before next year's competition.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Work at Haltons and the Dromore River are all impressive. Have you put together a survey of wildlife in the area? Last year's report also suggested the possible extension of the riverside walk and provision of wildlife information boards. Have you looked into these possibilities?

Litter Control:

It was interesting to note that you had identified problem areas in the town, such as fast food outlets, to target as needing special attention and your work with these properties commendable. The proposal to form litter clean up teams sounds like a good idea. Litter control was a problem, on the day, at the school on the Shercock approach.

Waste Minimisation:

The work you do with local schools in relation to recycling awareness is impressive. Signposting to bottle banks is important and your work to ensure this is good also, as is the pressure to ensure regular collections. Have you considered organising composting workshops or composting your own green waste from your work? The school appears to be taking part in the Green Flag programme, as it was flying proudly on the day.

Tidiness:

We note your problems in relation to the graffiti issue. Some other centres have looked at the idea of assigning designated graffiti walls in order to control the problem and treat it as an art programme. Is this one that you feel could work for you? The Brady Livestock Mart was a problem this year again and looks rather neglected, sporting broken windows and a weedy forecourt area. The barrier outside the Church of Ireland should be repainted before next year. A garage near the main crossroads needed to be attended to.

Residential Areas:

Inter-estate competitions are always a good idea in order to promote healthy competition! The encouragement of residents to create attractive landscaped areas in their estates is also laudable. Planting and banking at an estate opposite the grotto on the Shercock approach was admired. Have you considered having nameplates prominently located at entrances to estates? In relation to individual houses, the two storey one adjacent to the livestock mart had an attractive garden. Some of the boundary walls further along will need painting before next year. The stepped houses on Bridge Street were admired, as was the garden of a bungalow opposite. The housing estate opposite the Fire Station looked well. The Annalee Grove Estate also looked well, although its landscaping had yet to mature, the gravelled area looked well. Griffith Avenue and Griffith Park also looked well. The stone house beside the Catholic Church was admired. St Michael's Close looked well adjacent to the Church. The Dromore Estate should look well when the trees mature.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The initial approach to the town on the Shercock Road looked a little rough, particularly at the nameplate. However, it improves greatly the nearer to the town centre that the visitor comes. The road surface was rather rough also. There were some attractive Victorian vents which should be retained and repainted on approach roads. The Clones Road appeared a little neglected, sporting weedy forecourt areas to the front of houses in places. The tree planting to a house at the bend near the town was admired, however. The adjudicator was pleased to note that this house sported its original sash windows.

General Impression:

Cootehill was an attractive town to visit for the first time. Its committee seems to be hard working and dedicated to its cause!

