

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Coolaney** Ref: **680**  
County: **Sligo** Mark: **253**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **02/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>253</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Coolaney Tidy Towns Committee is welcome to the 2007 competition. We note from last year's report that you had submitted a work programme in 2005. It is important that this is submitted each year in order to give the adjudicator's a clear idea of where your priorities lie in relation to the development of your town. It is also important, from your own point of view, in order that you have a clear direction in which to go, especially given the amount of change and development that the town is undergoing at present. You have a very large committee, which should be advantageous. You would appear to have a good working relationship with Sligo County Council, local businesses, Peace and Reconciliation, Coolaney Development Co Ltd and Teagasc. The assignment of a Liaison Officer to the Rockfield National School is a great idea.

### **The Built Environment:**

Most of the buildings on the wide main street of the village looked well cared for on the day and fresh. O'Grady's was very well presented as usual. The River Inn looked charming but will need freshening up before next year. The new Health Centre was admired on the Galway road. Collery's and Mc Nulty's will also need to be freshened up before next year. Do ensure that gable walls are not neglected when considering overall presentation. P. K. Meats looked well. The Happy Landing was a little flaky in appearance. The Community Centre looked well. An attractive curved gabled building was admired on Main Street.

### **Landscaping:**

The landscaping at the bridge was very impressive and had a good mix of permanent planting and colourful flowers. The monument at the top of Main Street was as well maintained as ever, as was the water feature and stone walling opposite. Attractive planting beside Keane's made a good impression. The Millenium Park was admired and integrates well with the Riparian Walk, although some rusty yellow poles at this location looked unfortunate.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

We note from last year's report that you were intending that a local expert conduct a wildlife report for you. This year you mention getting the local school children involved in a project at the Riverside Walk area. Either (or indeed both!) are good initiatives, which we look forward to seeing. New entrances are a good idea in this location, and Information Boards a fine initiative. The Riparian Walk is as delightful and charming a location as ever and one that is marvellous to have so close to the village centre. The new boardwalk was noted and the copper clad entrance piers are most interesting-one more was noted in the village centre. We would suggest that you let them patinate naturally as this always looks more subtle than the chemical means of aging copper.

**Litter Control:**

A daily litter check is a good initiative. We look forward to the new bins, one on Main Street looked very neglected on the day. Some litter was evident at the monument, and a couple of papers were seen on the Galway road.

**Waste Minimisation:**

We note from your application form that the recycling area is a temporary location. Have you found a permanent home for the bins yet? The current location appears to be working well. The picket fencing had yet to be erected. Stone beds were in place to the rear but had yet to be planted up.

**Tidiness:**

The village had a generally neat and ordered appearance, as ever. The car park at the rear of the River Inn appeared a little rough and a Planning Notice here suggested that work was planned for this location. The bench and concrete base at the start of this end of the Riparian Walk were in a poor state of repair. A yard area with broken down vehicles viewed from the other end of the walk looks unfortunate and should be screened by tree planting. Don't forget outbuildings to the rear of Main Street when considering the village's appearance-some tin roofs needed repainting in traditional red colour.

**Residential Areas:**

There has been a massive increase in the amount of housing in the town in recent times. Do try to ensure that these are designed in a way that is suitable to the character of the town. It is also important that they are finished to the highest of standards in terms of materials and landscaping. Radharc na hAbhainn estate is in quite a prominent location at the end of Main Street and its stone wall boundary was admired. However, it was felt that perhaps additional landscaping would improve its appearance somewhat. The Rath Oisi estate had no nameplate but some marvellous landscaping-a mix of permanent planting, trees, dry stone walling, timber picket fencing, hedging and floral displays which works very effectively. An attractive garden in this location was admired for its lavender and snapdragons. The new developments on the village end of the bridge were still under construction on the day. There were some very attractive gardens backing onto the Riparian Walk - one with montbretia, pansies, and lilies was particularly admired.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The banks on the Galway road had been cut back neatly and the new welcome signage created a good impression. The lovely lime trees in this location are coming along well. The Sligo road was in similarly good repair. There was a line of trees along the Main Street of the village, which were new since the adjudicator last visited the village and were greatly admired.

**General Impression:**

Coolaney is a charming village, which still maintains its quiet charm despite the onslaught of massive development. Do keep a sharp eye on the design and completion of new housing estates to ensure they do not "swamp" the existing village.