

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cootehill** Ref: **52**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **247**
Category: **C** Date(s): **04/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	247

Overall Development Approach:

Cootehill is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition in this its 50th anniversary year. Thank you for your submission and enclosures which were both interesting and helpful in adjudication. It is good to note the support you receive from all sectors of the community and particularly Abbot Ireland Ltd and SuperValu. Your liaison with Cavan County Council appears to be fruitful. Well done also on your community communication activities. Cootehill looked beautiful on our visit and new developments were noted

The Built Environment:

An excellent standard of presentation has been achieved for the West End Bar and both the County Council/Library and the Credit Union premises look well also. Schools and particularly their grounds are being nicely maintained as is the Roman Catholic Church and its grounds. Cootehill has a handsome stock of two and three-storey buildings; many potentially good shopfronts are spoiled by inappropriate window stickers and posters. Encourage shop owners to stop using roller shutters outside of their windows these can be placed inside and window displays and lighting at night can have a very good visual impact on streets. The Church of Ireland graveyard is being nicely maintained. Grounds to commercial properties on entrances to the town are generally well presented.

Landscaping:

Flower displays at many locations around the town were admired for their colour and profusion and landscaping at the Court House looks particularly well. Well done on tree-planting on Church Street and that proposed for the site of the old fountain. Try to choose native species of trees and shrubs in your future landscaping activities as these are supportive of wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Commendations are due to those responsible for the amenity development at the River this provides both visual and recreational amenity. Well done also on the bird boxes at the Riverside together with picnic facilities. We look forward to signage for amenity walks especially forest walks and wish you every success in bringing this to fruition. Now that bird boxes are in place perhaps a bird species count might be considered, this might be done in conjunction with students of local schools.

Litter Control:

Litter control was still strong this year however there was a light scattering in the town centre; not enough to present a problem, just enough to review your litter control activities for effectiveness. A litter survey should be organised to identify the type and source of litter, this will enable you to strengthen litter control.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling point located across from St Michael's Hall had quite a lot of dumping which would suggest that bins are not being emptied frequently enough? The goal under this heading is to minimise the waste produced by the community and not simply recycling; with this in mind perhaps a Waste Audit might be considered to establish the amount generated by the community and to devise strategies to reduce this. All sectors would need to be involved, business, schools, the council and residents.

Tidiness:

Quite a few properties looked a little dishevelled and are in need of some work. The sign frame at the Ivy Bar should be removed as it is an eyesore and serves no purpose. Overhead service cables have high-visibility and give a cluttered appearance to the town centre no doubt you're working on having these deducted. Well done on this spraying of kerbs and footpaths to keep weeds down, hopefully you're using an environmentally friendly weed killer!

Residential Areas:

Gardens and dwellings on approach roads are nicely presented and communal green open spaces in estates enjoy a good standard of presentation also. The task now will be to get to know your new neighbours and welcome them to your lovely town; encourage them into the TidyTowns movement. With this in mind you might consider hosting 'Meet the Neighbours' evenings. Flyers could be distributed to households asking them to pay particular attention to their roadside boundary walls and areas immediately

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Grass verges/banks are being beautifully maintained at entrances to the town. Most stretches of road are quite well surfaced and complimented by weed-free well surfaced footpaths. The hard shoulder at the top of the Drumoe road is in need of resurfacing. Car-parking is orderly throughout the town and street furniture in most instances is nicely presented, street nameplates are noted.

General Impression:

The general impression of Cootehill is one of a pleasant town with considerable potential to do well in the TidyTowns Competition however there is work to be done to arrive at this situation; hopefully some of the problem areas identified in this report might prove to be useful starting point. Visit us at www.tidytowns.ie for useful tips and information