

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Coolgreany** Ref: **119**  
County: **Wexford** Mark: **225**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>225</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the comprehensive application form, excellent work plan which is now in its 2nd year. The Ordnance survey map of the village with various projects and places of note indexed was much appreciated as it allowed one to identify places more readily.

This is the adjudicator's first time to visit Coolgreaney and the main thing that one is struck by is its tranquillity.

The Committee of six has a very proactive approach to basic work planning and indeed it deserves immense credit for mobilising all sections of the community help the TidyTowns cause for the betterment of the village. Your interaction with the County Council and other local organisations is laudable.

There was major infrastructural work in relation to water and sewage ongoing in the main street during adjudication time, allowances have to be made for the disruption that this causes any village or town. Last years report alluded to the fact that the Village has no Church which is quite unique for a village of its size.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Village has a very pleasant streetscape and would have seen to better effect if it were not for the work being undertaken to provide essential services such as water and sewage.

A number of buildings in the main street were derelict but it was good to note that the Cobblers Cottage is earmarked for restoration.

Dereliction is a problem that affects ever village even the high achievers, it is important that the Committee keep encouraging the owners of such properties in Coolgreaney to at least make the effort to camouflage their properties.

An Scoil Iosagain is well maintained and the caretaker was working on the grounds on the day.

The Castletown GAA Grounds was in good condition with kids in full swing training. It is a pity to note that a few of the dressing room windows were broken as if they had been vandalised. The Coolgreaney Inn is a focal point in the village but it needs a little lift with a basic coat of paint. It is appropriate that the Grotto is in line for improvement because at the moment it does not stand out. The adjudicator noted that the Committee is undertaking a number of initiatives to encourage property owners to maintain their properties to an acceptable standard. The Committee should consider the undergrounding of telephone wires as a long term project, approach your local representatives to fight your cause. Tutty's a well maintained business premises as is Rafferty's Pub which has a long history with the Village, one was tempted to hire one of the quad bikes and traverse the Wexford Wicklow countryside.

### **Landscaping:**

The landscape treatment of any village is of fundamental importance to its appearance and general well being and of course contributes to gaining of marks in the Tidy Towns competition. The tree planting in the village has had a significant impact in terms of softening the look. The entrances to the village are well served also with effective planting arrangements. The landscaping in Coolgreaney addresses the need to have colour mainly in the summer and autumn, as well as the long term all year round need to have effective shrub and tree planting. The trees that line the village and also on the link road adjacent to Croghan View are a good example of this practical approach and one notes from your Tidy Town Plan for the next 2 years that this will continue. The grotto area was very colourful, but as stated in the previous section that whole area should be exploited to its fullest because of its prominent location. The bridge area, which was slightly disrupted because of infrastructural work, was also admired for the colourful hydrangeas and petunias. The Committee should consider softening the green area at Croghan View in front of the School by planting suitable trees as well as providing a little colour by positioning suitable flower containers around the perimeter. When the water sewage works are complete the colour provided by window boxes, tubs and individual gardens will be more to the fore. All in all the standard was quite good in this category.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The main objective of the wildlife and natural amenities category is to encourage the conservation of areas that fit into this description and to ensure that these areas are treated in accordance with suggested recommendations. It is obvious that Coolgreaney Tidy Towns Committee have taken that approach in this category, the adjudicator is very pleased to note that there are plans to further propagate species of berry trees and shrubs to promote natural feeding of birds. Bird boxes are always welcome and the village has a number appropriately placed around the main areas. This category is also an excellent vehicle for getting the local school children involved in the Tidy Towns movement. Maybe the Committee should look at the possibility of inviting a knowledgeable local wild life enthusiast to talk to the school kids. He or she might act as a mentor to any school project that might ensue. Your plans for the future are practical and achievable.

### **Litter Control:**

The Litter Patrol concept is one that has worked very well for many communities in the fight against litter. Coolgreaney has embraced that concept and the Village has benefited tremendously as there was very little litter to be seen on adjudication day. The efforts to date show a great sense of Pride Of Place amongst the Villagers of Coolgreaney. One or two new refuse bins would not go astray especially at the lower end of the Village. I would agree with last year's adjudicator that the waste receptacles are positioned in the wrong place in the village they should be sited in a less prominent location.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is a category that has caused some confusion with both entrants and indeed initially with adjudicators. The Race against Waste booklet gives general pointers as well as specific project actions that can be undertaken to contribute to the waste minimisation. The projects you have included in your plan are very much inline with what has been outlined in the community action section of Race against Waste and it is important that the school becomes a central part of any future initiatives.

The recycling centre, aside from its location, was well maintained neat and tidy. One looks forward to seeing what evolves from Coolgreaney in this category in the future and it is hoped that the school children will be to the forefront.

### **Tidiness:**

There is quite a lot of construction and small bits of remedial work being undertaken in the Village and its immediate outskirts and this tends in some instances to lead to untidy sites. In general the village has a tidy appearance and residential areas such as Croghan View for example have very ordered and tidy frontages which gives a good impression to the first time visitor. Dereliction usually falls within the Built Environment category but of course it is a major contributor to the untidy appearance of any village or town. Coolgreaney has not too many buildings that are in a state of disrepair but the Committee needs to coax the owners of those that do exist to make an effort to make good their premises. Easier said than done as every one is not in tune with the Tidy Towns ethos – so a need for good diplomatic negotiation skills. Other initiatives under this category can be viewed within the Tidy Towns Handbook which one should consult regularly as it is an excellent source manual.

### **Residential Areas:**

The presentation and level of maintenance of both estate and private village houses was quite good. Some exceptional older and re renovated private residences were noted in the village and its surrounds and these were complemented by newer residences especially in the outskirts on the Tinahealy Road. This adjudicator was impressed by the standard of presentation on view at Croghan View and it was noticeable that many residents took great pride in providing mature and colourful front gardens. Do fix the seat at the base of the Green adjacent to the School and GAA Club. The cottages at the Kilanerin entrance are very attractive and are synonymous with the village of Coolgreaney. It is good to note that the Committee continues to liaise with local resident associations offering ongoing advice on how best to undertake new projects that will project the village to a higher level in the competition.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The standard of road surfaces in the Village proper and on its outskirts was mixed and again allowances has to be made for the ongoing work that its taking place at the moment. Verges were maintained in a manner in keeping with recommended wildlife preservation guidelines. A very attractive Failte sign welcomes the visitor to the Village at the Kilanerin end but the committee should encourage the owner of the property with all the cars to manage his or indeed her site a little better. The Arklow Road entrance was acceptable but the road surface was a little uneven and the Committee should continue to lobby local representatives to get the Local Authority to agree to a road surfacing programme for the village when the essential services work is complete. The Tinahealy Road entrance was also very acceptable with some very impressive residences to be seen as one approaches the village.

### **General Impression:**

This was the adjudicator's first visit to Coolgreaney and certainly it won't be the last, I look forward to coming back when all works are complete and the County Council has undertaken a full road surfacing programme and this very attractive Village is at its very best. The village was quite tidy with a couple of notable exceptions that have been highlighted in the body of this report. It is important that you the Committee be to the forefront in encouraging both resident associations and individual residents to do their utmost to project the good image of Coolgreaney. Your 3 year plan is on target and one feels that you have got the support of the wider community of the Village and its surrounds. Keep up the excellent work and good wishes for competitions in the years ahead.