

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Coolaney** Ref: **680**  
County: **Sligo** Mark: **258**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>258</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to this years competition and thank you for the very fully completed entry form, map, three year plan and schedule of photographs all of which were very useful on the day of adjudication. Securing the active involvement of 29 members of your community is indeed a sizeable achievement. Their involvement in meetings, litter picking and other aspects is certainly aiding the upward movement of the centre.

In common with many centres you are experiencing major expansion with a large number of new houses. Rathoise is being finished to a high standard. The progress in securing inclusion on the North West Town of the Roses as demonstrated by the fine new sign is significant. The trees in the centre of the main street are very good with their necessary traffic island protections.

The imposing New Town Centre is a bold statement with extensive work in progress. Woodstream housing development was marked by the success of the landscaping at the entrance which was also the standard achieved at Radharc na hAbhainn Estate

The sizeable additional work in maintaining each of these amenity areas will per force have to be undertaken to some degree at least by the residents themselves and these arrangements need to be considered and worked on over the coming months as you look forward to 2009 and beyond.

### **The Built Environment:**

The use of stone in the many flower beds does you credit as at the entrance to Radharc na hAbhainn add greatly to the overall level of presentation. The new Health centre looked well in itself but do attend to the area between its boundary and the road surface. F O'Grady's premises were well presented as was Flair Hair

Saloon. The Blue white painting of the Garda station was striking while Slíabh Gamph caught the eye. The unusual treatment of the house with 'pimples' was admired; while the two stone houses at the cabinet maker, Thomas Keane were a joy. Do press ahead with your proposal to paint the derelict buildings in Main Street which currently constitute a serious negative impact on an otherwise most agreeable centre.

### **Landscaping:**

The Community Park, playground and football pitch is a well thought out and effective presentation of landscaping. The river walk and area is also a strong positive element of your overall success in this category. The standard of the green fencing is appropriate, offering long term solutions. Keep things in proportion for example while the fountain size itself was appropriate, the water flow rate was below what might be considered appropriate. The floral display at the bridge was excellent, while the random rubble wall needs to be repaired at this location. The capped wall here is very good indeed. The monument at the top of the village was well presented. The iron leaf seat by the river was a lovely touch.

The size, scale and number of selling agents signs for houses need to be monitored. The location at the entrance to Ratharc na hAbhainn Estate is a case in point where they dominate the delightful stone wall area.

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

The wild flowers at the railway bridge are an excellent source in the important food chain. The riverside walk offers many opportunities for the establishment of bird and wildlife habitat. Your idea, to use the trees than require to be felled here as part of such a development, is excellent. Consult with a member of Bird life Ireland or a local wild life enthusiast for best advice in this regard.

Replace the missing sign here with details of the bird and wildlife in the area. Cutting just a limited amount of grass at the verge is commendable as it encourages bird life due to the increased probable availability of elements of the all important food chain they need.

### **Litter Control:**

Evidence of an effective litter management plan was very apparent on the day of adjudication.

Your well publicised weekly litter picks are both helpful in direct action but also as weekly reminders of the need to be positive about the correct disposal of litter. The same effect is also re-enforced by the ongoing poster competition.

Repair or replace the litter bin at the riverside walk area, taking care that arrangements are in position to keep it and others in the centre serviced regularly.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The new and permanent location for the bring centre is an improvement and was been well maintained on the day of adjudication. It was been well used and well maintained with no indications of the level of misuse that can sometimes mar these installations.

This category is as much about getting the community to consider and implement methods of reducing the generation of waste in all its forms as it is about recycling items where possible.

Read the booklet from Race against Waste - it offers many helpful guidelines on the process which best begins with an audit of waste, examines how it is generated both by individual household and the community in general and offers suggestions on how best to reduce waste 'at source'. Help and advice is also available from Sligo County Council Environment Department with whom you might consider staging a Waste Awareness Workshop some evening or weekend.

The Green Flag programme for Schools is also an excellent source of good ideas and Rockfield School should be encouraged to seek this status in the coming year.

### **Tidiness:**

The overall appearance of the centre was of a high order but some aspects continue to need attention. The delightful River Side Walk was somewhat diminished by the appearance of the open area behind the River Inn, which has been commented upon in earlier reports. The busy timber sawmills area left some room for additional screening from this important road entrance to the centre.

Grass between the road and pavement at some points were disappointing while the sign post at the most

attractive amenity and flower bed area at the bridge needs to be straightened up. A minor defect but it detracted from the overall excellent presentation of this area.

**Residential Areas:**

The remarkable increase in the housing stock has in general been well integrated although the sheer scale of the additional housing stock has clearly placed a strain on the tradition ethos of the village. You are to be complimented on the high standard of the amenity areas achieve in the entrance areas at Woodstream Estate, Rath Oise and especially at Cluain Aine Estate which is maturing very well. In particular the presentation of communal grassed areas is commendable.

The private houses on Rockfield road maintained a high standard in individual gardens. The use of fine stone at Gort na Sí entrance is applauded.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

You have given considerable attention to the presentation of approach roads and the welcome signs are well set off by the raised flower bed. Securing the Northwest Town of the Roses status and the planting by the sign at the small river here makes for a delightful visual effect. The new estate roads have been finished to a high standard.

Some of the speed limit signs need attention, for example the 50 sign at the timber yard is being partly obscured by encroaching vegetation. The Name plate at New Town Centre has been knocked down and was lying on the ground on the on the day of adjudication.

The village name plates and welcome signs are excellent.

The road surface on Rockfield Road needs attention.

**General Impression:**

The centre achieved a high mark in this over-arching category due to the successful manner in which it has used its natural features to best advantage. The bridge and river, amenity areas and communal grassed areas are excellently presented. Your three year rolling programme has helped you to identify and concentrate on specifics.

All involved are applauded on this entry and we look forward to reading of your ongoing achievements in 2009 and beyond.