

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Coolaney** Ref: **680**  
County: **Sligo** Mark: **266**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **04/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	8
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>266</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Coolaney Tidy Towns Committee is welcome to the 2009 competition. You would appear to have a good working relationship with Sligo County Council, Teagasc, the Peace and Reconciliation Fund and other statutory bodies. You would also appear to have a good relationship with local schools. Many thanks for your concise application and submission which was very useful on the day, in particular the clear and neat map. We appreciate the problems you are having with incomplete and unsold developments and are pleased to hear you are having some success in this regard.

### **The Built Environment:**

The River Inn looked bright and cheerful, as did most of the buildings along the wide Main Street. Do ensure that the render is not removed from traditional vernacular buildings, as this is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but can also lead to problems of water penetration. The Primary Care Centre and its landscaped area was well presented. The Community field and associated dressing rooms were well presented.

### **Landscaping:**

The planted bed at the Ballisodare entrance to the village looked very well. The cleared area opposite was obviously intended for another landscaped project, yet to be completed. The tree planting along the wide main street has proven very successful and was maturing nicely. The Millennium Park and riverside walk are marvellous assets to have so close to the village centre. The football pitch area was well maintained and the planting leading up to it looked very well. The Playground area was being well used on the day.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The new seating area by the river will be of great benefit to those wishing to appreciate the wildlife to see there, as well as providing a natural habitat. The conservation of wildflowers on the riverbank is a good initiative. The new bird boxes and signage along the riverside will be of great benefit to animals and humans alike. The planned beds of native flora in the new Town Centre are an excellent idea. The proposed talk by a bird expert will also be of great interest to all.

**Litter Control:**

The standard in this category was quite good on the day, with little being evident. The weekly clean-ups, and daily monitoring of Main Street are evidently paying dividends. The planned clean up focussing on recyclables are a good idea.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The recycling area was neat and well cared for on the day and the signage indicating its presence is a good idea. We were pleased to hear that Rockfield National School had achieved Green Flag status. The local children's initiative of collecting recyclables is an excellent idea. The proposed home composting talk is a good idea, as is the village compost bin.

**Tidiness:**

There was some evidence of green algae growing on the fountain on the day. We were pleased to hear that the graffiti problem appears to have been resolved. Generally the standard in this category was good on the day.

**Residential Areas:**

The large Radharc na h Abhainn housing estate at the Ballisodare end of the main street has a large paved area which would benefit from some softening with some landscaping, as you have suggested in your submission. The road surface in this area was also in bad condition. Sliabh Gamph is an attractive older housing estate.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Ballisodare Road had been recently resurfaced and was in good order. The verges were generally well maintained and the signage advertising the North West Town of the Roses was admired. The welcome signs were very cheerful. The roadside beyond the Radharc na hAbhainn was not as well maintained as the Ballisodare Road, and we noted your comments regarding contacting the council in this regard. The Coonacool Road was generally well maintained.

**General Impression:**

It was a number of years since this adjudicator had visited Coolaney and certainly large changes had taken place in that time. It looked well on the day.