

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Coolgreany** Ref: **119**  
County: **Wexford** Mark: **271**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **12/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22	23
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>271</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Coolgreany is welcome to the 2016 National Tidy Town Competitions. Your small committee of six is well-organised and have been successful in securing support from local business, your local school and sporting clubs. In addition to this you have also sought and achieved assistance from Wexford County Council, Solas and your Development Association to further your efforts. Well done to the school on achieving their second Green Flag and promoting litter picks and nature walk days. The Croghan Word is a fine initiative and should prove very successful in promoting your objectives, supported by local newspapers, articles, e-mails and your contact with your school.

### Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The wide Main Street retains all of its traditional scale and character. The profile and massing of the town houses has survived intact. The Lime Trees enclose an attractive vista especially when viewed from the south of the street. The central water channel is an attractive feature and is well maintained. The village houses along the street were brightly painted and were adorned by an array of hanging baskets. O'Rafferty's Bar and Lounge is a charming building retaining its rural character. Further along, the Post Office creates a bustling atmosphere. Close by, the windows of a number of derelict houses have been very nicely enlivened with some well-thought out murals. The handball alley is progressing well and, opposite, the commercial building access could be improved by the removal or renewal of the timber plant boxes to the top of the wall near Farm Services. Perhaps you should consider a storyboard at the Handball Alley outlining the handballing history of your village. This would create a nice balance with the existing historical plaques located at the lower end of the village.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your landscaping efforts are progressing well, particularly at the green area opposite, and including, your school grounds. The new feature planter bed looks well, and was well maintained, as was the playground. The Green at the 1798 memorial is a highlight of your efforts, well-maintained and incorporating attractive seating. Opposite, the 'Eviction' story plaque adds great historical interest to an area close by the bridge, containing some well-presented, traditional stone walls. The Lime Trees are a feature of your village. Their manicured appearance reflects the continental 'trees on stilts' presentation that looks so appropriate in an urban context. The churns, milk stand and adjacent linear roadside margin, planted with wild flowers, creates an attractive and colourful entrance to the housing area beyond.

### Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

Your wildlife information boards are interesting and prominently displayed, especially at the Inch entrance. Last

year's adjudicator indicated some suggestions that your community could consider and it is encouraging to note that you have taken a number of these suggestions on board, particularly in conjunction with your school. We look forward to the results of your Biodiversity Project.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

It is encouraging to note that you separate collected items on your litter picks with a view to recycling as much as possible. Also, that both the school and local business engage in this initiative. The water harvesting and school gardens projects will have a good educational benefit in the long term. Well done on facilitating the 'cycle-to-school' initiative. The Bring Centre was well-presented in its prominent location and looked fresh.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Street furniture was well-maintained, including the seating, litter bins and footpaths. Some directional signage, both in the village centre and the approach roads, was in need of a freshen-up. Nearby, at the Handball Alley, a sign for Gorey was pointing in the wrong direction and needs to be re-aligned. A laneway access between the pub and adjoining street house looked a little untidy and would benefit from some screening. The presentation of P.Lennon's is excellent and the murals provide great interest at this important visual location, while reflecting on the social, commercial and historical life of the village.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

The previously mentioned street houses are the visual strength of your village. Their nicely maintained appearance, containing a simple elegant, muted colour scheme, enhanced by the line of mature lime trees and hanging baskets, creates a very attractive visual vista. The Croghan View housing scheme is well-presented, enclosed by an attractive stone wall and containing a nicely manicured green area linked to the school. Well done to the residents and to your C.E. scheme on the on-going maintenance programme here.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

Coolgreany has a nice variety of approach roads and a feature is the number of stone walls and hedgerows enclosing these. New works by the committee on the Inch Road have a welcoming appearance and provide a sense of arrival at the village, while contrasting with the mature trees and old stone walls beyond. Grass margins were neatly strimmed here and again at the Ballyfad approach road.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

The committee have a structured approach to the on-going maintenance and improvement works and the results of their hard work is to be seen in various locations throughout the village.