

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RIVERSTOWN**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	176

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The development approach which you have taken is very good, particularly the renovation of existing buildings and work completed alongside the river banks in recent years. The town has improved greatly in recent years, and it is good to see that you are maintaining the high standard of past years. You will need to co-ordinate more with other organisations - such as the County Council, the local schools, and the regional tourism officer. It is a positive sign that you are receiving co-operation from the business community, and you should continue to involve them in your efforts. Finally, try to complete the entry form more fully to enable the adjudicators to understand how you are improving the town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The main natural amenities which you have are the two rivers and their bridges. There was an abundance of birds visible along the banks of the rivers on adjudication day, and you should strive to further improve the character of these areas. The bridge along Ross road is in need of some repair, and the sycamores growing out of the masonry will damage the bridge in time. This area could be an excellent amenity with further tree planting and seating along the bank. You should also investigate the possibility of removing some of the old pipes on the bridge. Some debris in the river next to the Co-op should be removed, as it may harm wildlife. The walls are well maintained here - well done.

LANDSCAPING

The standard of maintenance is high this year. The only exception is the entrance to the Agricultural Museum, which needed mowing. This is surprising as this would probably be the most likely destination for visitors to the town! A picnic area could be developed here, facing the river, to provide facilities for visitors. The areas around the Town are well maintained. The grass around the well also needs mowing and the rusty wire fencing across from the well should be removed. The line of beeches opposite the old church by the river is an impressive entrance to the town. More trees could be planted by the river to screen the small outbuilding. A few seats by the corner house at the Ross Road junction would be attractive. The church grounds would benefit greatly from some planting, especially to the right of the church, to screen the view of the shed beyond. You should consider more tree planting around the bridges and perhaps hanging baskets within the Town.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Post Office building is very impressive as is the Catholic Church, the national school and the Family Butcher with its colourful window-boxes. The boundary wall of the school needs re-painting. The B&B looks well. Boyds and Quigleys looked very well. The Blackthorn is to be complimented for their efforts with hanging baskets. Willis Foodstore should consider replacing their plastic sign with a more traditional one and removing the stickers in their window. The signpost at the Maxol Station needs re-painting. At the Ross road junction, the derelict building could be whitewashed. The pump opposite the Catholic Church needs to be repaired as it is leaking water (not a sound environmental practice!) and is corroding. The left side of the field opposite the Church has a shed with a rusty roof in open view as one enters the town, and you should try to have the shed re-painted. The court to the Co-op is very coarse with large Chippings. The building itself could be painted with more attractive colours. The small cut stone church on the rivers edge past Ross Road is in an awful state. Hopefully the future plans for this site will improve the building and preserve its design.

LITTER CONTROL

There was quite a lot of litter visible along the river bank at Ross road, and outside the national school. In fact, some of the litter in front of the school seemed to have been around for weeks! The litter bin here was full, so it is a sign that greater vigilance is needed in emptying bins. The town centre was very clean and tidy, and great credit is due to the effort here. Some litter was noted in the car park opposite the

Corner House.

TIDINESS

Generally there was a good standard of tidiness in the Town. Outlying areas such as the riverbanks require constant attention and vigilance. The Town was well presented on the day and you have made great efforts in the area of tidiness over recent years.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many houses along the Ballygawley road could use some freshening up with paint. You might consider a colour scheme for this road. Approaching the town, the corner house near the Post Office looks well, with the new wall and planting a very attractive feature. Houses by Willis Foodstore need re-painting to freshen them up. A problem area is the derelict house across from Quigleys, which could perhaps be re-painted. Houses along the riverfront are well-maintained. However, a view to the house on the left side of the Dublin Road as one crosses the bridge shows that the house needs attention. Its side walls and shed with rusty roof create an unattractive view. The dead trees in front of it worsen the view. Consider planting this bank to screen this view and try to persuade the owner to paint their walls. There is a wire fence in the property next door to the school which should be removed. The houses along the riverfront look well, however the view of the house on the left-hand side of the Dublin road as you enter into the town needs attention. The side walls and shed with its rusty roof create an undesirable view. You could consider some screen planting along this area. The house opposite Boyds has a wire fence which should be planted with shrubbery or could be replaced with timber rails.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the Ballygawley Road, the town name sign needs re-painting as do the speed limit signs. The boundary wall on the town side of the Post Office needs freshening up. The car park opposite the Corner House is somewhat drab. The new wall and planting on the approach road to Lough Arrow is attractive, but the wall opposite had sand and gravel piled against it from the new planting job you have done. Keep tidy as you work! The wall is in need of fresh paint as it detracts from the view to the hills beyond.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The Town appears to be improving each year! As you are into the upper level of the Tidy Towns competition, it is important that key features such as the rivers be carefully developed and maintained. Buildings are another area which you should pay close attention to in future years.