

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SLIGO**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	16
Tidiness	20	8
Residential Areas	30	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	15
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	153

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The number of people involved in your efforts is far too small for a city. Your efforts are appreciated, particularly your detailed entry form and accompanying map.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Unfortunately, you have not included any projects under this heading. It would seem that a riverside walk could be planned along the Garavogue River, as it passes through the heart of the city and links the city to the bay. It might be possible to start at the end near Duck Street, where you have already begun planting. You should meet with Sligo Corporation about how this could be achieved under the Urban Renewal Programme. A greenway along the river could also link up with other features of the city such as the Dominican Abbey and the Yeats Building.

LANDSCAPING

Trees could be planted along the river below Markevicz Road to improve the view and enclose the houses. The junction of Quay Street and the entrance to the industrial estate needs tree planting. The high bank near the community care centre could also benefit from tree planting. Your planting at the junction of Duck Street and the Bundoran road is coming on very well and looked very tidy on adjudication day - well done! Also admired was the new planting at the cemetery triangle, which greatly improves the corner and shows that you are devising a planting strategy. The planters on the Dublin road looked well. Teeling Street would benefit from some window-boxes.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

On the Dublin road, Langan and Sons could be painted. The walls of Markewicz Park and some of the nearby boundary walls are in need of painting. St. Marys Primary School and its boundary walls need to be re-painted. On Pearse Road, the Garda station looked very well. Plastic signs on the Pit Stop Service Station should be replaced. Judge Wakleys Bar needs re-painting, and the signage on the night club entrance is very obtrusive. Dermot McDermotts wooden sign needs re-painting. McDonaghs looked well, but they should replace their sign with a more traditional one, as should the Carlton Cafe. The ESB shop was also admired, with its floral display. The Tain looked well but the upper storey of the building needed painting. The Dragon House Restaurant was presented to a very high standard.

At Castle Street, My Lady shop was very well-presented. However, Deirdre Cookes and Des Horans need freshening up. Keohanes looked well, as did Sligo Supply. On O'Connell Street, there are several shops with plastic signs, and these should be replaced with more traditional ones. Wehrly Brothers and Harcadon Brothers are very attractive shops and would be enhanced by window-boxes on the first storey of the buildings. Hunters Chemists was admired with its window-boxes. Albert Shaws looked well, but the upper storeys of the building need freshening up. Mullaney Brothers also looked well. Adams seemed rather drab. Moffits looked very well.

On John Street, The Helm Restaurant and Book Nook need freshening up. St. Johns Cathedral is impressive and greatly enhances the street. Veritas was also well-presented, as was Fatima House. However, the vets office needs re-painting. On Wine Street, Lyons award-winning shopfront was in the process of being re-painted, and hopefully the upper storey will also be painted. Dunnes needs freshening up to enhance the corner with Adelaide Street. The Clarence Hotel was well-presented, but the planters and awning supports need painting. Peter Johns looks well. Several shops on this road are in need of re-painting, and again, window-boxes would greatly improve the overall appearance of the street. Bohemian Girl is a shop which still needs attention.

Quay Street was very well-presented. The Taxi Rank office looked well. Sligo Estates should replace their plastic sign and re-paint their building. The Sligo Corporation Offices looked very impressive, but

the flower bed outside were not planted yet and it was nearly July! The Tower Hotel has an attractive entrance court, and The Anchor and the Chamber of Commerce both looked very well-presented. The bicycle shop at the end of the road needs freshening up. Unfortunately, Lower Quay Street was not as impressive, with the beautiful cut stone building (Caddens) in need of attention. The roofs of buildings along the west side of the car park could be softened by painting them a subdued colour.

St. Johns National School would be improved by re-painting the rails and boundary walls. Boundary walls are also a problem at the junction of Mail Coach Road and Connolly Street. Many shops on High Street need to be re-painted and there is quite a lot of plastic signage which should be replaced. Dereliction was also a problem here. Market Street was greatly enhanced by B. McGuinness and Reginas Florist shop - well done!

LITTER CONTROL

Some litter was noted at St. Johns Cathedral. Workers were seen sweeping the streets and collecting litter on adjudication day, which is encouraging. However, there was still quite a lot of litter in the city centre. Some of this may be due to lack of enough bins. For example, bins are needed on High Street, and litter was seen outside Conway Brothers, which detracted from its fine appearance. Litter control on the Dublin road was very good. The church and school grounds were also very clean on the Dublin road.

TIDINESS

Weedy kerbs along the car park at Lower Quay Street were very untidy, as were the old boat trailers stored along the Quay. Weed growth was also very noticeable in the paving in front of the conference and training centre at the Market Yards. The Market Yards is still an untidy area, but we look forward to seeing how your community will re-develop this area. The problem of dumping and storage of scrap at Ash Lane still continues, and we hope your efforts to solve this with the new halting site will work, but it is really the responsibility of two communities to try to understand each others needs to reach a solution for storage areas that are not so highly visible.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The terraced houses at the junction of Mail Coach Road and Connolly Street were well-presented. Derelict buildings and neglected gable walls were a problem at the junction of Burton Street and Old Market Street. Houses along John Street to the Tourist Office are rather drab and in need of paint. Perhaps the County Council architect could devise a colour scheme for this street. Houses on Adelaide Street could also use brightening up. A few houses on the Rosses Point road need freshening up. The houses on the Bundoran road were presented well. Pearse Crescent/Estate was generally well-kept, but a few boundary walls need attention. Most of the houses along the Strandhill road are presented to a very high standard. However, the condition of the housing at Wolfe Tone Street still is poor, and the general vicinity of the bus and railroad stations should be earmarked for urban renewal. Little seems to have changed from last year, and the better-kept estates such as Rose Hill and Cedar Drive are positive points, while Garravogue Estate has not improved substantially. As was commented last year, this aspect of the town reflects the fact that the community is not involved enough in your efforts to achieve substantial results. You will need to develop the plans of the residents associations for the many estates in the city, and perhaps Sligo Corporation can help you to develop a plan specifically for the residential areas of the town and their open spaces.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Rosses Point road was weedy, but the grass verges were well-mown. A rusty gate and untrimmed hedge on the right hand side detracted from this road. The grass was not mown at the junction of the Donegal and Rosses Point roads, and this is important as it is highly visible. There were overgrown hedges and grass verges opposite Fehilys Funeral Home. Ash Lane has a very mixed appearance, with the dumping problem continuing. The entrance to Sligo General Hospital was well-maintained, but the grass verges near Sligo RTC were not mown. A sign for the RTC would be helpful. Tree planting on this stretch of the

road is needed, and also in front of Tubs and Tiles. Tree planting would also improve the Bundoran road on the left side along the footpath, especially coming down the hill. The beds on the hill between the two petrol stations looked well, but the grass verges were not mown beyond the Statoil station. You really must mow to the speed limit signs, especially on a main road such as this national route. The Dublin road was far more impressive. The trees here on the approach to the name sign are coming on well. The Strandhill road was very well-kept, with weed growth kept in check, and the grass neatly mown. Your planting at the railway station entrance was an improvement to this road.

Some new street signs are needed, and the sign at Quay Street needs to be replaced. Billboards, such as that near Housewives Choice, are to be discouraged, as they detract from the streetscape. The new paving on Quay Street is very attractive, as are the new streetlights and newly-planted trees. The Bus Eireann sign on OConnell Street needs to be painted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You are progressing well with your efforts. there has been a great improvement in the standard of shopfronts in the City. There are unfortunately still a number of problem areas which are bringing the positive aspects of the City down. Try to develop a plan of action for these areas. You are making good progress.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/96)

As noted by the first adjudicator, the city of Sligo has quite a few problem areas which need to be tackled. There was a great deal of litter throughout the city. Mail Coach road was quite unfortunate looking with messy forecourt areas to garages and dereliction. The signage on Upper John Street was rather grubby. The delightful planting on the Donegal road in timber slatted square tubs with an abundance of colourful flowers was admired. The sign posting, however, was very faded and it appeared generally rather overgrown. The base of the Statoil boundary wall was quite weedy. The planting at Avondale looked well. However, the grass bank leading up was quite overgrown. The forecourt of Esso looked extremely messy , with gas canister storage, etc.