

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROSEMOUNT**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	29
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	29
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	196

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Another excellent effort can be reported for Rosemount in this year's competition and the appearance of the Village continues to improve. The standard of presentation demonstrates a high level of commitment by all sections of the community and your detailed entry form indicates a good working relationship with statutory bodies such as FAS and the Local Authority. Hopefully you will be able to make progress in having your wirescape cabled underground. You should pursue the preparation of a Plan which will help focus attention on future objectives and on weaker areas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new area in the competition which Committees will have to take on board to a greater extent than in the past. While there is no doubt that your extensive hedges provide a natural habitat; for wildlife you should seek advice from local experts on what additional steps that you could take to improve the natural habitats, for example in the type of planting you undertake in the future. The stream is an important sanctuary area for a wide variety of animal and plant life. On the day of inspection several herons were seen fishing in the stream.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping throughout the village is of a high order. The neatly trimmed grassed areas with the seats and low stone wall on the Moate road is one example. There are two landscaped areas between the Ballymore road and the Moate/Dublin road which are impressive. The one nearest the village proper is most impressive with its attractively presented picnic seat, neatly trimmed grass, low defining boundary and other features. Preparatory work was noted at the seat at the wide bend with the extensive grassed area at the other amenity area. The junction between the Moate and Dublin road is also noteworthy with its attractively presented pump and screening trees at the pump. A number of trees seem to be failing and should be replaced as soon as possible. The trees on the Ballymore road are maturing nicely - you should consider removing the rubber tyres as they certainly add nothing to the overall effect.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard of presentation of most of the public and commercial buildings is excellent. The Church and grounds are a credit to the community. The rosebed is especially attractive. The Top Garage is neat and tidy as is the GAA Centre. The iron shed on the opposite side of the road to the Church needs painting. The flower beds and shrubberies at the entrance look well. The school is acceptable as is the Post Office.

LITTER CONTROL

You rightly take pride in your standard of litter control. On the day of inspection, no litter was present. Your efforts to maintain these standards are commendable; however you should consider providing litter bins in suitable locations; for example at the picnic and seating areas in the amenity locations. Other locations that should be considered include the GAA car park etc.

TIDINESS

The absence of litter, the tended grass areas, well presented buildings and boundary walls, clean roads and kerbings all make for a well presented and tidy village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the residential houses are of a high standard. Several have attractive gardens; however there are quite a number, particularly on the Dublin road, which need to weed gravelled boundary areas; there

are also examples in other parts of the village. Boundary walls in the main were of a satisfactory standard, but a number need to be painted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The scattered nature of the village with four approach roads presents considerable problems of maintaining hedgerows and grass verges and this is an area that you must give further consideration to. Stretches of the grass verges are kept in an almost lawn like condition but adjoining verges or on opposite side of road, particularly at the long bend with the white seat between the Ballymore and Moate road are not maintained to the same standard and while it is not suggested that all grass verges be brought up to this standard there is too big a discrepancy. The removal of cut grass where possible would be helpful particularly in areas adjoining amenity areas. Here and there stretches of fencing need repair or screening trees should be planted; in your entry form you point out a number of these locations. An attractive feature of the village are the extensive and well presented stone walls; the absence of vegetation on stone walls was also noted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression is of a high level of commitment to improving standards in the village. Greater attention to detail at this level is all the more important and the preparation of a plan, as has been mentioned, should be considered.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/96)

Perhaps a small interpretative panel could be displayed giving information on the type of birds which inhabit the bird sanctuary and other details of interest. Landscaping at the community centre is excellent as it is at other areas throughout the village. The picnic area looks remarkably well. The school and its boundary walls were beautifully presented. The canopies on the T. Kelly grocery shop together with the numerous window posters and window stickers should be eliminated. The more traditional straight-edged retractable type of canopy is favoured. Litter control was excellent on second adjudication also. Well done! The barbed wire fencing on the green area marking the junction of the Ballymore and Mullingar Roads looks unappealing and should either be removed or planted with hedgerow. Some field gates to the Ballymore Road looked untidy and the rubber tyres at the base of trees had filled in with weed growth/long grass. A number of roadside areas to boundary walls are in need of weeding. Footpaths should be constructed to link residential areas and community buildings such as the church, community hall and sports grounds. The wire and post fencing on the Moate approach road could be cleared of rough growth and planted with either hedgerow to match existing hedgerow or with a mixture of Beech and Hawthorn hedgerow. Other approach roads were overgrown to the nameplate. We look forward to the restoration of the stone wall located across from the picnic area. The roadsign for the 'Dangerous Bends Ahead' should be cleaned. The telephone kiosk could be upgraded and a number of roadsigns were in need of cleaning at least. Overall, Rosemount was very well presented this year.