

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BOYLE**
County : **ROSCOMMON**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181	177

Boyle, County Roscommon

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Boyle is a handsome town with many fine features. It boasts a river with fine bridges (one of which is medieval), fine architecture, (some Georgian in style and character) and King House which is being lovingly restored and which now offers visitors to the town a unique experience to understand the life of the town. The town also features an attractive street pattern with an elevated town square. Thank you for the completed questionnaire and map. We look forward to many future visits to your lovely town. The children's adventure sports playground is a very welcome development. Boyle has all the ingredients for success in the competition and all that remains now is to take every opportunity to present both the built and the natural environment at their best.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town centre is attractive with its many handsome two and three storey buildings. There is a lot of potential here in terms of presentation. Many buildings need to be improved in some respects, particularly repainting. Perhaps a co-ordinated colour scheme for the town could be adopted and promoted; this might encourage property owners to improve their premises. Other recommendations as in the past involve the elimination of plastic signs and their replacement with more appropriate signage. O'Mahoney's shopfront is unusual and reflects its iron craft business very well.

LANDSCAPING

Young trees planted in the town square are maturing well. Be vigilant regarding weed growth around their base. Perhaps the remaining tree guards could be either upgraded or removed altogether. The trees are probably mature enough now to no longer need these. The initiative under this heading for Green Street, the town parks, the riverside and the Station Road have been noted. The grounds of the Plunkett Home are beautifully landscaped again this year. Incidental landscaped areas such as the one on the corner of Chapel Street and the one on Termon Road are a nice touch and of course the landscaped areas featuring the sculpture pieces on the Sligo Road are exceptional.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

When planting trees under this heading be sure to choose species that are attractive to birds and other wildlife. Perhaps an appropriate project under this heading might be to undertake a survey of the wildlife of the town and its hinterland and base any future projects on the findings of this survey. Your riverside walk is an especially attractive feature of the town and was much enjoyed during adjudication.

LITTER CONTROL

Boyle was a pleasure to adjudicate during the Arts Festival Weekend and given the amount of activity in the town on this important

weekend, litter control was excellent in general. However, it was weakest in the lane at the entrance to the riverside walk. Road cleaning activities were noted early on Sunday morning. Well done on the acquisition of additional litter bins.

TIDINESS

Be vigilant regarding weed growth along kerbs. For the most part kerbs were weed free around the town. However, there were some notable outbreaks; for example, stretches of kerb near St. Joseph's Church and on the entrance to Green Street. A number of underdeveloped sites and derelict walls and buildings need to be presented a little better. No doubt the committee is well aware of this and these tasks will be accomplished in time.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The overall presentation under this heading is good. A terrace of houses just beside the railway bridge look particularly well and feature an attractive colour scheme. The majority of boundary walls on Termon Road look quite bad and urgently need attention. Work in progress on the construction of new properties has been noted on the Termon Road. Ensure a high standard of presentation and the elimination of all building materials.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Street furniture could have been presented to a higher standard, many items were in quite a reasonably good state of repair but could have been cleaned or painted or varnished to 'freshen'. Pay particular attention to items of street furniture in the town centre. For example, fingerposts located in Bridge Street at the junction with Carrick Road were badly in need of cleaning on adjudication day. The area around the water pump in the market square is rather underdeveloped which is a pity as the water pump is an attractive feature and was in use during adjudication. Some rusted roofs near the railway station could be improved and wire and post fencing marking the entrance from the Roscommon Road could be planted with hedgerow. Many other signposts around the town and at the entrance to the town e.g. the nameplate on the Carrick-on-Shannon road badly need to be upgraded. The new stretch of footpath under construction on the Termon Road forms a nice introduction to the town at this entrance. Attractive stone walls were noted on a number of approach roads into the town but for the most part these were partially hidden with overgrowth. Over a period of time these should be exposed and refurbished as necessary and highlighted as an attractive feature of the town. Stretches of stone wall on the Ballina Road look exceptionally well. The planting of Laurel hedgerow along the wire and post fencing at the nameplate on the Carrick-on-shannon road is a good idea as it will enhance this entrance into the town in a very short period of time. The approach road leading in to Green Street is nicely landscaped and looks well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Boyle is favourable due to its many fine features, both natural and cultural. Some good work has been accomplished also in terms of landscaping. Your priority for next year might be to encourage property owners to adopt a co-ordinated

colour scheme and also to request the County Council to improve a number of signposts and nameplates.