

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ELPHIN**  
County : **ROSCOMMON**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	16	16
Landscaping	40	16	14
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	20
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>141</b>

## **Elphin, County Roscommon**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Elphin is welcome to the 1997 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the completed questionnaire. It is good to note that a heritage group has been established and has plans to promote the unique features of the town, i.e. the old Cathedral and the 'Well'. It is a pity that you did not include a sketch map of the town highlighting work accomplished in the past year; perhaps you will do so for next year. Also don't forget to include a summary of your planned work programme covering the next three to five years, if possible. This does not have to be professionally prepared; it can be done by the committee by noting the number of tasks that need to be accomplished over a period of time and putting an approximate timeframe on them. Some notes on the town renewal scheme would be helpful also. The idea for a model town at the site near the old windmill is exciting and we look forward to its completion. Thank you for your continued participation in the competition; we look forward to noting your progress over the coming years.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There are still far too many plastic fascia signs on commercial properties on the main street. No doubt the committee is keeping up the efforts to have these replaced by more attractive signage. The white coloured weather stained wall leading up to the church on the Boyle entrance should be cleaned and/or painted. The 'Newline Electrical' and 'New Waves Hair Salon' fascia boards are urgently in need of cleaning. Perhaps property owners could be encouraged to adopt a co-ordinated colour scheme and this might encourage the painting of those buildings which are most in need of attention.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Trees could be planted inside the roadside boundary wall of the Livestock Mart properties to give greater enclosure and a more interesting composition. Roadside boundary walls from the marts could be upgraded by cleaning and/or painting or plastering. The gable wall of the barn shaped property located beside the Mart could be planted with an attractive climbing plant to soften its appearance. The wire and post fencing on the left hand side of the road beyond the Mart should be planted with a hedgerow for greater enclosure and attractiveness. Rough growth should be removed. Young trees on neatly maintained green verges on the Hill Street approach are maturing nicely and mark a very attractive entrance to the village. Take the opportunity to plant trees on wide stretches of footpath along the main street. The presentation of the Day Care Centre is excellent and landscaping here could well be emulated at various sites throughout the village. Landscaping at the carpark on the Boyle entrance is maturing nicely. An undeveloped site forming a road junction on the Longford Road would look well if landscaped and/or provided with a sculpture piece.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The environs of the old Cathedral might be developed as a wildlife

garden or feature. A suitable project to undertake in the near future would be to do a survey of the wildlife of the village and its immediate environs. This may then be used as a base for future wildlife projects.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control showed signs of improvement; well done! It is important that this standard be maintained throughout the year.

## **TIDINESS**

Weed growth along the high stone wall on the right hand side of the road beyond the fire station ought to be removed together with outbreaks on the left also (these high stone walls enclose the sports field) and along other stretches of footpath throughout the village. The yards featuring the open storage of the pallets etc. located to the side of the commercial property just beside the Statoil station look particularly untidy as does the derelict site on the left across from the Statoil station. Don't be disheartened at the poor response to your request regarding dumping and general untidiness. People eventually respond in a positive way although this may take some time. Weed growth, undeveloped sites and general untidiness in the environs of commercial properties are the main problems under this heading.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Roadside boundary walls of residential properties located on the right hand side of the road almost across from the fire station could be upgraded. Residential properties on the Hill Street entrance look well with just a little work necessary in terms of boundary walls. Terraced townhouses on the main street are nicely presented. A number of properties on the Boyle entrance to the town should have the roadside area of their boundary walls either regrassed or resurfaced. Residential properties on the Windmill Road are in need of attention also. The Karol Avenue development looks well.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The stone wall along the left hand side of the road on the entrance from the Carrick-on-Shannon approach might be revealed and restored as a dry stone wall. The new stone wall on the right hand side of the wall has been noted. The new footpath outside the Fire Station should be permanently surfaced. The dry stone wall on the left hand side of the Hill Street entrance to the village could make a very attractive feature if revealed and restored. A number of signs in the village such as the speed limit signs on the Hill Street entrance are in need of upgrading. The Boyle approach road to Elphin looked really well with its neatly maintained green verges. Opportunities exist along this road also for the clearing and refurbishment of old stone walls. The carpark opposite the church on the Boyle entrance to the town and the grotto here look particularly well. The wirescape along the main street is quite visually obtrusive and ought to be ducted at some stage in the future. This is likely to take some time to organise as it is an expensive project but it should be thought about now and the wheels set in motion. Fingerboards on the main street

facing down into the Longford Road are in need of repairs. Well done on the restoration of stone walls.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The general impression of Elphin is one of improvement. The town has an attractive layout, is located in pleasant countryside and features some nicely landscaped areas.