

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROSCOMMON**
County : **ROSCOMMON**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	26	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	10
Litter Control	40	26	22
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	19	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	175	160

Roscommon, County Roscommon

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Roscommon is welcome to the 1997 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed questionnaire and sketch map together with the layout of the proposed park. You did not forward a summary of your work programme; this should be furnished for next year's competition. Thank you for your continued participation; we look forward to many repeat visits to your attractive town. Your document/action plan on litter control is impressive and in fact it is probably one of the best initiatives on litter seen by this adjudicator in the competition. Well done.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Roscommon has a fine main street with the vista terminated by the old market house (Bank of Ireland). It is also a slightly elevated street so there are good views both into and out of the street. The majority of buildings are well presented along the main street; however, there still remains a problem of inappropriate signage. No doubt as business are modernised these will be corrected. The Medical Centre is a fine building. The town square is another attractive feature and landscaping here softens the environment. The only serious criticism that can be made in respect of the main street and the square is that neither of them are pedestrian friendly. Carparking features quite a lot on both. No seated amenity areas were noted at any point either around the square or along the main street (with the exception of two at the old gaol). The wirescape criss-crossing the main street is visually obtrusive; the committee should take whatever steps are necessary to start action on ducting the service cables.

LANDSCAPING

A number of commercial properties on the Castlerea entrance into the town could landscape their forecourt areas. The example to follow here might be the 'Furniture' complex forecourt area which is nicely landscaped to its roadside edge. The small amenity area at the top of the Galway road beside the entrance to the Abbey Hotel is beautiful in its simplicity. The town can boast of numerous landscaped areas both in the town centre, on approach roads and at entrances to the town. All of these look very well and will continue to improve as the planting matures. Perhaps the only remaining area left now to landscape is behind the boundary walls of the Livestock Mart. Some tall columnar shaped trees would be appropriate. Ensure that the proposed park by the Castle is adequately signposted from the town square so that it may be perceived as a vital part of the town centre. The carparks are beautifully landscaped. The variety of colours in the Buddleia in one is quite stunning. Perhaps some of the high concrete block walls leading into the carpark could feature a variegated or red ivy or other climbing plant.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The racecourse on the Castlerea road looks well. The committee

might consider undertaking a wildlife survey of the town and its hinterland to establish existing wildlife and to use that as a baseline study for any future wildlife projects that might be undertaken. The wildlife of the area should be highlighted as a feature of the town also. The graveyard behind the Church of Ireland building is well presented.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good on the day of adjudication for a town of its size and no doubt this is due to the initiative taken by the committee and the litter development strategy. Your challenge will now be to maintain and build upon this standard.

TIDINESS

Do be vigilant regarding weed growth along kerbs as these can look quite untidy. The redundant sign post and frame beside the old petrol pumps outside of the Art Framers shop in Abbey Street should be removed as a matter of priority.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The new housing development on the Galway road located just before the nameplate is finished to a high standard. Is its roadside green area earmarked for landscaping? Quite a few roadside boundary walls to private properties inside the nameplate are in need of cleaning or painting. A considerable amount of work has yet to be accomplished in the residential development located behind the railway station; perhaps the undeveloped corner site here could feature a wildlife garden and the stone walls along the Creggs road could be restored. Development sites on the Creggs approach road have been noted; no doubt roadside finishes and green open spaces in this development will be to the same high standard as that achieved elsewhere around the town. Again there are some very badly weatherstained roadside boundary walls to private dwellings on the entrance to the town from the Creggs road. The new Garden House apartment building looks exceptionally well. The new residential development off Church Street is impeccable in its presentation.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads into the town are all beautifully landscaped with young trees planted and neat grass verges and entrance points marked by landscaped roundabouts. The main opportunities for further development on approach roads are to restore the dry stone wall along the Castlerea road, and to tidy or screen undeveloped sites at the top of the Longford road if these are not to be developed in the next year or so. The Creggs road is in need of attention also.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Roscommon is one of a very pleasant town with beautifully landscaped areas, several historic buildings, the promise of a fine park / recreational area but also one of busy streets where there is far too much on-street carparking despite the development of the new carpark.

