

Tidy Towns 1997

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	31
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	25	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	13
Litter Control	40	17	16
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	16	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17	15
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>153</b>

## **Sligo Town, Co Sligo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The development work is ongoing each year in Sligo. The restoration at the riverbank has really transformed this part of the town, giving it a very cosmopolitan air. The planting at various parts of the town by the Committee is to be admired and it is noted that the Committee receive significant support from Sligo Corporation, Bord Telecom, FAS and the Chamber of Commerce, who are to examine the possibility of sponsoring a 5-year plan by acknowledged town planners. This will be a great help to the hard working committee, for so long the unsung heroes of the Sligo Tidy Towns efforts. Thanks are due to the Committee for returning the completed questionnaire and map.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Sligo has some excellent public buildings and most are presented to a very high standard. Sligo Cathedral is a fine building with its planting and well laid out car park. St John's Church of Ireland Cathedral has a lovely appearance. The Dominican Friary, the Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church, St Joseph's at Ballytivnan and St Anne's are good examples of the old and the new. The bank buildings are very impressive, particularly, the Ulster Bank with its flower tubs and sculpture of WB Yeats. The Urban Renewal Scheme is very good and when the building works in this vicinity are finished it will certainly be the piece de resistance of the town centre. There is still some plastic signage in the town, although traditional shop fronts abound. Amongst those to catch the eye were Cat and the Moon, Tir na nOg, Mullaney's Bus Stop, Henry Lyons (lovely as entire building was painted), the Stables and MJ Carr's. Quay Street has nice paving and the Town Hall presentation is a treat. The Railway Station is lovely as is the Bus Station. However, there was a lot of litter in this area. The R.T.C. has a nice new wall, railings and entrance gate on Ash Lane. The new halting site being built here is noted. The hospital looks well with nice grounds and planting. The I.D.A. estate at Finisklin is attractive with well maintained grounds and buildings notably Forbairt, Platter Foods, Fort Dodge, Trackteck, and Abbots. There are some new houses being built on the Mail Coach Road. This development will improve this corner near Connolly Street. Donaghy's Pub has a very colourful appearance. The Mercy Convent School could improve its approach to the sports pitch and the building on the right could be freshened up. The Ursuline Convent is very presentable as is Summerhill College. The market Yard is exemplary with its new housing and pavements. Something should be done with the buildings with corrugated roofs. The Southern Hotel and the Park Hotel are also worthy of comment. St John's Hospital is well maintained, but there is a lot of litter around the boundary walls. The two Government buildings are presented to a high standard.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The planting programme throughout the town is a credit to the

Committee. The tree planting, shrubbery beds and flower beds on the approach roads are generally well maintained and presented. Cartron Green, the planting beside the Railway Bridge and beside the GAA is excellent. Planting at the corner of Ash Lane and Molloway Hill is exemplary. Cairns Drive looks well. The tree planting at Rockwood Parade is lovely and the display of flower tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes throughout Sligo is delightful and creates a bright and colourful image of the town. The cemetery needs some maintenance particularly at the top end.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The wooded area at Doorly Park is a fine natural habitat and it was noted that the riverside area here was being upgraded. Another area which is already designated a wildlife area is Cartron Marsh on the Rosses Point Road. A sponsored billboard map identifies the birds in this area (well done!). A nature trail similar to the Tourist Trail, using the river and the city is a suggestion that could be considered.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was some residual litter through the town centre. Litter was noticeable in the vicinity of St John's Hospital, the Bus Station, Connaughton Road, the old school near St Anne's Church, Oaktree Lounge and in the car park beside the river at the rear of the bank. Cranmore Estate has a litter problem. There was very little litter in Wine Street Car Park.

## **TIDINESS**

The area on the right of the new bridge is very unsightly. Connaughton Road Car Park is extremely untidy and a burnt out car was noticed here. The Tourist Office complex including the Hawks Well Theatre has a neat and tidy appearance. Ash Lane is much more presentable. The footbridge over the river at the Rockwood Parade is a nice colour but is slowly being defaced by graffiti.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Many of the houses on the approach roads are presented to an extremely high standard. Brightly painted houses, green lawns, planting and nice boundary walls are the order of the day. There are numerous housing estates which show that Sligo is extremely vibrant. Most of them looked well, and those worthy of comment are Markievicz Heights, Woodtown Lodge, Rose Hill, Cedar Drive and Kevinsfort which is quite spectacular. Work is ongoing on the landscaping of Ashburn Lawns on the Dromahair Road. The finished product should look well next year. The suggestion in last year's report regarding Sligo Corporation developing a Plan specifically for housing estates should be followed up.

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

The approach roads in general were well presented. The treeplanting, flower beds and shrubbery beds and stonework are well maintained. The Boyle Road was most impressive. The new wall at the GAA park certainly enhances this approach (well

done!). The Bundoran Road has verges trimmed and trees planted, although some trees had been damaged. The harbour area is rather unsightly and there is a lot of dereliction at Lynns Place. Strandhill Road as last year is well kept. Mail Coach Road has improved somewhat, with a nice new garage presentation - well done! The Manorhamilton Road has a colourful flowerbed at Yeats Heights, but the verges on the road need trimming. The road from Dromahair is well maintained. The new pub at the corner is a nice colour and when the building work is complete in the area it should be an asset to the town. Ash Lane has improved and the provision of a halting site should be an advantage. The new halting site at Finisklin has only three caravans but dumping was noticeable .

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

You are making good progress; slow but sure. The completion of building works throughout the town will certainly improve and help Sligos ambience. Hopefully, your proposed Tidy Towns Development Plan will be available next year. Well done and keep up the good work.