

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	25	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	185	181

Boyle, County Roscommon

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Boyle is welcome to the 1998 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the completed Entry Form and outline map. We would recommend that the committee draw up a three to five year work plan, updated each year. This would assist the committee, help focus the efforts of all concerned and appraise the Adjudicators on progress achieved each year. We note the reference to the overall Townscape Improvement/Development Plan which was undertaken for Boyle and look forward to seeing the fruits of the Architectural students labours on the streets and landscape of the town in the years ahead

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town has many attractive features, the on going work on the small building at the entrance to Frybrook House is a nice touch. King House and grounds, Boyle Abbey and grounds all looked well. There are some buildings requiring major improvement work and others requiring less - a small bit of effort by these owners would greatly assist the appearance of the Town and their property.

LANDSCAPING

The riverside development at Assylinn is a fine amenity for the town, well maintained with the trees and shrubs coming on nicely. The grounds of the Plunkett Home looked exceedingly well and a credit to all involved with the maintenance of the grounds. The presentation and the landscaping at the Scholars corner, Chapel street, Tarmon road and the Sligo road is a credit, the other occasional maintained landscaped plots throughout the town also looked well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

With the Boyle River running through the town and the numerous walks in the vicinity a survey should be undertaken to determine the wildlife and fauna of the town and hinterland. The findings could be suitably displayed and promoted for the benefit of all the community. An extension of the project could see the formation of a wildlife habitat in a suitable location in the town environs.

LITTER CONTROL

It was disappointing to see litter about the town, especially along Main street, along the street from the bridge towards the Crescent and along the road on the west side of the Crescent. The river walks were relatively free of litter, but the public park off the car park at the rear of the Post Office had litter scattered about, what a pity. Boyle needs to make a better effort to ensure the litter

about the town and along the approach roads does not get out of hand. It is not just the Council's problem but everyone's duty to ensure that Boyle is a litter free town.

TIDINESS

Derelict and neglected buildings continue to effect the tidiness of the town, hopefully the owners of properties will tackle them sooner rather than later. Plastic signs should be removed or replaced, business owners should be encouraged to improve their shop frontages and indeed there can be no excuses now that Boyle has the benefit of the Townscape Improvement/Development Plan. Weed growth along kerbs is still evident at locations and should be tackled.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A large number of residential properties along the approach roads and on the town's streets looked very well, with nicely tended gardens and well maintained properties. However the owners of some houses in the housing estates should be encouraged to participate in the Tidy Towns effort and improve the appearance of their homes and gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The properties on Main Street, the Crescent and Elphin Street with their arrangements of window and flower baskets are a nice touch and looked well and brightened up the streetscape. St Patrick Street contains a large number of properties which could also follow the example of the other streets and consider providing additional flower arrangements or indeed painting them. Rear and side entrances and especially storage areas should be screened off from view. In the town there are a number of businesses placing beer and gas kegs on the street this impedes access and is a hazard for pedestrians especially the less able bodied. The storage of general material in open areas should be discouraged, the old car batteries and stone blocks in the Green Street car park should be removed. The improvements to the street furniture including the new sign posting is noted, however some still require attention. The fine old stone walls throughout the town but especially on the approach roads should be exposed and where required repaired. It was noted some walls have been improved. However, there are others still requiring attention. The riverside walks on both sides of the river looked well. The children's playground was being well used on adjudication day and is a fine amenity for the town. However the adjoining public Park was a disappointment, except for the grass and pitch areas which had been cut, the shrub, flower and bench areas were totally overgrown and becoming wild, what a pity. The flower and shrub beds on the main approach roads looked well and welcoming, well done. Weeds and tall grass should be monitored on the verges of the roads especially the footpaths and at the base of stone walls.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Boyle has a lot going for it in terms of its location, streetscape and fine buildings. Improvements are happening but wider community support and effort, especially by the business community, should be garnished to supplement the efforts of the tidy towns group to ensure Boyle progresses in the competition. Progress does not happen overnight but a town can lose marks and fall behind easily. We look forward to visiting Boyle again, do keep up the effort. Many towns faced the same challenges as you do but with perseverance and commitment tackled the challenges, moved on and progressed well in the competition.