

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	17	16
Landscaping	40	16	16
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	149	146

Elphin, County Roscommon

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Elphin is welcome to the 1998 Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for your completed entry form. We would recommend a three to five year Work/Development plan be drawn up, this would greatly assist and focus the efforts of the community and committee. It would also assist adjudicators in their assessment of work accomplished and planned in the future. Elphin has great potential. However, the town centre should not be altogether forgotten, your achievements to date with the Windmill project is commendable as are the proposals for the model town.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Property owners should be encouraged to replace plastic signs, indeed there are some commercial shop fronts requiring attention. A number only require a little effort, even painting, by the owners to improve their business fronts and it would help the streetscape a great deal. Hopefully the really neglected properties will be improved in time. The two petrol stations opposite the old Cathedral ruins, the "stocks" are a novel idea at the Esso site, are both well maintained and look well, as does the 'Scoil Ceard Oid Eacais ' and grounds. The warehouse forecourt and side area adjoining the Statoil Station needs attention, even the shrub beds are neglected, a little effort would go a long way. Elphin with its three and two storey buildings, fine wide main street and public buildings could do well in time in the competition and it will take wider community support and involvement to achieve this.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping opposite the Church looked well, as the shrubs and trees mature it will even further improve, well done. The flower baskets and boxes on a number of properties on the main street look well and add to the features of the buildings, other property owners should be encouraged to do likewise.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A survey should be initiated to identify and develop the wildlife and natural amenities of the immediate hinterland. As recommended in a previous report perhaps as a start the area around the old Cathedral might be considered as a wildlife feature combined with a suitable information board outlining the areas natural amenities and wildlife. The location of Elphin in a rural and pleasant countryside lends itself well to the exploration and proper treatment of the wildlife and natural amenities on its door step.

LITTER CONTROL

While litter did not seem a problem on adjudication day, the main

areas where some litter was in evidence were on the approach roads into the town especially the Carrick on Shannon Road. It is vital that litter is monitored and controlled, before it becomes a bigger problem.

TIDINESS

Weed growth continues to be a problem along the edge of footpaths and especially on approach roads to the town at the base of stone walls. However when the road works are completed this will improve the streetscape and the tidiness of the town. Side areas and exits should be tidied or screened off from view. The open green area outside the gate to the old Cathedral is very untidy which is a pity and the area to the left, is very bad with litter, rubbish thrown down it. The area adjoining the Esso Garage with the old derelict buildings behind are disappointing, a good start to improving this area would be if the front open area was tidied and cut back, this might encourage the tackling of the buildings again, as it would seem was done some years ago.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of private residences are well maintained and indeed some have nice colourful gardens. In Karol Avenue the majority of residents are making an effort with nicely maintained houses and gardens, the open spaces need attention especially where tall grass is starting to cover the base of the trees. The residential houses on the approach roads with the fine colourful gardens look well, especially on the Hillstreet and Boyle roads.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Boyle approach road should have its hedges and road verges trimmed, the Windmill approach verges were cut back, but watch litter accumulating on the side of the road. The Hillstreet approach road looked fine with the stone walls adding to the character of the road, cut grass should be removed. Any of the old stone walls on approach roads should be repaired and exposed where possible. The Carrick on Shannon road had weeds and grass at the base of the walls, the new stone walls were noted and when fully completed will look well. While the white Co-Op building and front area is maintained some form of planting should be considered to help visually break this large area fronting the road. The Strokestown approach road with its maintained green verges and trees looked well, the opposite side of the road still needs attention prior to the town. The area at the intersection of the road near the small derelict house needs attention with some screening and wall repairs. The private houses with colourful gardens near this area looked well. Back areas should also be monitored and screening provided where possible to cut off rear views etc.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Do not give up the effort to further improve your Town, Elphin is improving and has a lot going for it. Yes there is work to be done,

encourage the rest of the community to support the Tidy Towns Effort. Visitors will consider stopping if a town looks inviting and cheerful. Good luck and keep up the effort.