

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RIVERSTOWN**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	28	26
Landscaping	40	29	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	15
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	13	11
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	201	186

Riverstown, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire, future plans, and maps. They were all very helpful, and demonstrate the committees and the communities awareness of the heritage and features of your lovely village. Your plans outline concise and achievable targets, incorporating the social, economic and tourism aspects of your village in a well planned and sympathetic development programme. Once again I was particularly impressed with drawings of the proposed plans. The village will be most attractively enhanced on the completion of the work featured and the community will benefit in many ways. Continue to build on the excellent relationships with public bodies and organisations that have proved so successful to date.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Brightly painted premises, and attractive landscaping features, all added up to a welcoming and pleasant first impression of Riverstown. Both the Church of Ireland and adjoining buildings, and the Catholic Church looked well with tidy grounds and parking areas. The Garda Barracks and the attractive area in front of it also looked well. Both schools also looked tidy and well maintained the day of adjudication. The new stones around the planting at No. 2 School looks particularly well and enhances the whole approach to the village. The perennial shrubs were also noted at the larger school. Many individual homes and premises were well presented, freshly painted, with many attractive flower features. The Agricultural Museum was very impressive, with its tidy displays, and the new Coach Houses will look well when completed, adding a new dimension to this interesting attraction. The N.C.F. premises looked very well, with a tidy forecourt and attractive planting scheme. The derelict building behind it also looked well, suitably disguised and presented. Wasylocha's Family Butchers and the Blackthorn both looked well with attractive flower features. The house adjoining the Blackthorn Inn, had a particularly nice stoned area, with some lovely flower features. Mc Dermot's looks well, and this adjudicator was delighted to see the progress on the derelict site in this area. The old buildings were freshly painted, with some lovely murals, the old car was removed, and the gate was suitably screened, well done. Similarly the presentation of play area was much better than last year, with its colourful mural, tidy grass, and flower feature. The display board here outlines your plans for this area, and it will all look well when completed. The Corner House still needs to address their plastic signage, and replace it with something in keeping with the general presentation of the village. The sympathetic and imaginative restoration of the house past

Mc Dermotts was also noted. The Community Centre and the adjoining sub-station, Post Office, Health Centre, also looked very neat and tidy. The derelict cottage on the Ballintogher road was freshly painted and had some attractive climbing roses. The G.A.A. pitch will also look well when completed, but the treatment plant will have to be suitably screened. The brightly painted Forge was also noted, and the Committee deserves credit for the imaginative presentation of the derelict buildings in the village, but must note that it is equally important to maintain this standard of presentation once you start it. It is good to see some work in progress on the church building on the Ballintogher road, and hopefully a sympathetic restoration job will result and add an attractive feature to this road.

LANDSCAPING

The Tidy Town Committee continues their hard work in this area of the competition, with many new, well maintained and attractive features in the Village. Your careful choice and mix of trees to include native trees is praiseworthy as is your mixture of seasonal planting and perennial shrubs and plants that provide a good mix of colour and content to last the whole year round. Flower and shrub beds on the approach roads looked very well, as did the small garden features at the Garda Station, and the nicely painted stile steps in this area. There are some lovely picnic tables, benches and attractive wooden signs located throughout the village. The lovely bi-lingual signs are in themselves pleasant features. The wildlife billboards and the wooden well are very nicely made, and will look quite resplendent when your commissioned artwork is inset. It would be a good idea to provide a handrail by the steep steps up to the sign overlooking the lake. Once again the many individual efforts were noted, with lovely hanging baskets and flower features throughout the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Tidy Town Committee has a valuable role to play in this important area of the competition, and the Riverstown committee have embraced this role as evident in your future plans. You have a clean accessible river with an adjoining amenity and a lake close to the village. Your proposed plans for the river and museum areas should encompass all the many opportunities for wildlife there already, including hedges, meadows, nesting sites, grass areas and water sites. You have already started work with relevant local bodies, continue this relationship and utilise this opportunity to the full.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter in evidence on the day of adjudication, bar some litter in the Diamond Car Park.

Your schools programme, and co-operation with the Co. Council is still paying dividends. Your bins look really smart, well done, but stay vigilant. It is very important to continue your work in this area.

TIDINESS

The general appearance of the village has greatly improved with efforts to tidy the derelict and untidy site in the village. Well done. The landscape features were tidy, with only the Diamond bed needing some attention. The wall and shrub beds close to the Catholic Church mentioned last year, look well, and it would be nice if a cap could be located for the pump as mentioned last year. It is important to maintain all the planted shrub beds, and to maintain walls, gates and boundary walls, street furniture, refreshing the paint work when required. It is good to see suitable gates used to disguise untidy or unsightly back yards throughout the village. A very tidy wall and gravel area was noted on the Ballintogher road. .

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the houses throughout the village and on the approach roads were well presented and maintained. Some tidy hedges and boundary walls, lovely lawns, hanging baskets, tubs, flowers and garden features were noted at and around many houses. Once again a lot of hard work for those concerned, well done. However some properties will continue to detract from those who try, particularly on the Ballintogher Road and Ross Road housing development. The number of homes in the latter, who are making an extra effort in their presentation has increased slightly, well done. The grass was also cut in this area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were generally well presented, with some nicely faced hedges, and tidy verges, that did not compromise the flora and fauna in the hedgerows. Attractive planting, trees, stone walls, and tidy footpaths all added to the first impressions of the village. There is still some mixed road surfaces throughout the village, with some needing re-dressing and attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Riverstown continues to make excellent progress in many areas of the competition. Once again, the committed enthusiasm of your committee is demonstrated in your continued hard work, progress, and in your future plans, and should be commended. Your work to date remains an example to the community, of what can be done, and all that can be done in the future, and should encourage greater participation of the whole community in your work.

Good luck with the future implementation of your plan, and we look forward to its completion.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/99)

Riverstown was excellent in its presentation on the evening of the second adjudication. Newly landscaped areas will make a significant contribution to the overall villagescape as these mature. Your development plan makes for interesting reading and as these developments are completed and come on stream, the community and visitor will benefit greatly. Sign posting for the park was perhaps a little pre-mature as the park is in the very early stages of its development. Is there easy access to the lakes? Again these were signposted but no details were available as to the distance of Lough Bó and Lough na Súil. Perhaps a map showing the distance of these features together with the Ancient Fort, Souterrain and Underground River might be provided for visitors and strangers to the area in general. The river bank of the Unshin river at the entrance to the village from the Dublin-Sligo road is underdeveloped and features mounds of rubble, however an attractive wildlife plaque is located here as well as at the opposite entrance to the village.