

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROSCREA**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	38
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	208	205

Roscrea, Tipperary N.R.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

In a Heritage town such as Roscrea, the overall developmental approach is very important and we have noted that you have worked on the Murray O'Leary plan, Dr. Christy Boylan's tree plan for Roscrea and also Ann O'Leary's plan. A horticulturist has advised you on planting and you are also working with Roscrea 2000 (Roscrea Community Development Council), the ESB, Schools and various Resident's Committees. Obviously, you are determined to proceed in the correct manner, and whilst a plan or work programme was not submitted with the entry, no doubt one is in the course of production between all the groups involved. Your map supplied with the entry form was helpful. However, this was a copy that had been added to over the years and we would suggest that a new colour coded map, showing developments undertaken in the course of the year should be supplied next year. Your record to date has been impressive in the Competition. However, the adjudicator felt that there now needs to be some new energy and impetus given to the effort for the future. With a Committee of fourteen (reduced from 22 last year) this is difficult with such a large area to cover. Also, we noted from the reminder notices regarding the Tidy Towns Competition which you displayed in shop windows that you do not have a FAS scheme at present. As a Heritage town with all you have to offer, it would be important that the benefits are maximised and there needs to be a concerted effort between the Tidy Towns Committee, the Local Authorities, the local business community and other Agencies in order to make this happen. Your late additional submission dated June 16 reached the Adjudicator after Roscrea was visited. A number of the issues mentioned in this submission are referred to in the report. Your specially designed notepaper is attractive and visually informative with its drawings of various Roscrea heritage sites.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It was noted that work is ongoing at the Old Mill by the Round Tower and that conservation at the Friary has been completed. At Goal Street the Roscrea Petty Sessions building and the Youth Centre were well presented. However, Roscrea Auto Electrical, some derelict buildings and the Mid-Western Health Board building on this road spoil the overall effect as does the appearance of the Roscrea Handball Club opposite the Friary. Most business premises around the town are well presented (many new shop fronts noted) and those that are not are now becoming more obvious. It was noted that access for wheelchairs has been provided at Abbey Hall and at the Bank of Ireland. Beside the very attractive development in Rosemary

Square, the Fianna Fail office needs attention. Businesses, on the approach roads are mainly well maintained. Hopefully, the closed Texaco Station on Limerick Street will be bought and refurbished in the near future. Roscrea Fresh Foods was well maintained and nicely landscaped.

LANDSCAPING

Your good work on the river walk/riverside garden was admired as indeed was all the planting undertaken on the approach roads/ roundabouts. At the Training Centre the planting outside the railings needed attention. Perhaps this is meant to be a wild life area but this was not defined and shrubs were being smothered by other growth. At Green Street, Gairdin Daisy Bates is a nice feature. However, the entrance to the Railway Station (a gateway to the town) was extremely poor. This lends itself to development and could become an exceptional landscaped area to welcome visitors. On the old Dublin road the flower beds and planting was looking very well. The Park in the centre of town is a pleasant recreational area for citizens and visitors alike.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your project regarding conservation of Monainchin Bog is a worthy one. However, the river/ grassed and planted areas in the town are also elements in this category and you might consider planting some more berried trees to attract birdlife and shrubs and plants such as buddleja and dahlias to attract butterflies.

LITTER CONTROL

With a town of over 4,000 inhabitants it is very difficult to police litter and must involve the co-operation of all and it was good to note the assistance of students from the Sacred Heart Convent and CBS together with Scouts who helped with the clean up. Most of the approach roads had very little litter. Some excellent litter bins were strategically placed around the town. At the Friary grounds the use of large green barrels for litter was noted. Whilst these are probably effective they are rather obtrusive in such a sensitive heritage area.

TIDINESS

Mostly good throughout although it was noted that weed control was needed on the footpaths around the town Park, on the old Dublin road and on St. Anne's road.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Again, we would urge that a good use of colour throughout the residential areas be encouraged. Where this has

happened in a small way it has brightened up the street considerably. Most private houses on the approach roads and in the town are contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. Kennedy Park deserves a special mention for their efforts. Some new houses are being built at present around the town and should be encouraged to complete their development in such a way as to also contribute to the overall effort.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The great improvement through resurfacing of roadways and paths was noted in many areas and it was also noted that you have had successful discussions with the Local Authority regarding providing more wheelchair friendly footpaths. Ninety per cent of signage throughout the town needed cleaning and upgrading, including painting of poles - in a heritage town this is an important aspect. The proliferation of business signage, especially plastic, and confusion of wiring and poles in the town centre still exists, obscuring many of the traditional shop fronts and plaster work. The signposted walking tour is to be commended - however, again these signs must be maintained each year. Perhaps also some further information could be included. At the Friary, a visitor is not given specific directions to the location of the Roscrea Pillar or the graves of Maol Ruain O Cearbhaill agus a bean Bibiana although reference is made to these on the informational plaques.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A town with huge potential, readying itself for a major effort in the new millennium.