

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	33
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	32	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	15	13
Residential Areas	30	20	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	212	201

Riverstown, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your Plan, maps and supporting material, they were all very helpful. As stated last year, your future plan encompasses many social, economic and tourism aspects of your village in a well planned and sympathetic development programme. It is good to see that you are continuing to foster relations with all the local public bodies and organisations that can assist you in realising your plan. Your fundraising ventures and community involvement are also commendable. The village, community and its visitors will benefit in many ways from your work and commitment.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Riverstown has many attractive features that contribute to its overall presentation. While the current building and development works have disrupted the centre of the village, when they are appropriately finished, they new homes will look well. Work continues at the old church building on the Ballintogher road which will look very well when fully completed, the derelict cottage on this road also looked well with its attractive flowers. The Health Centre, Post Office, and Old Forge were nicely presented. The Community Centre, with its newly painted title sign, had some very attractive window boxes adding a splash of colour to the streetscape. Mc Dermott's newly painted sign also looks very well, as did the sign on the Corner House, although last years comments re: Plastic Signage still applies. Both the Church of Ireland and its brightly painted adjoining building, and the Catholic Church looked very well. Both schools also looked very well, with some lovely flower beds at both schools. The freshly painted Garda Barracks is a focal building that caught the eye as you approach the village. The Agricultural Museum will be further enhanced when the new Coach Houses are fully completed and appropriately finished, adding a further attraction for the village. The Playing Pitch looks very well now that it is almost completed. The attractive Car Park area and a lovely old cottage feature were noted here, but an untidy grass area by the gates needs some attention. As stated last year the Committee deserves credit for the imaginative presentation of the derelict buildings in the village, but there are now two cottages on the Ballygawley and Heapstown roads respectively that need to be tidied up.

LANDSCAPING

Once again many individual efforts were noted, with lovely hanging baskets, tubs, and flower features at premises throughout the village. Flower beds and landscape features

throughout the village looked very well and tidy on the day of adjudication. Your careful choice and mix of trees, seasonal planting and perennial shrubs and plants provide a good mix of colour and content to last the whole year round. The lovely picnic tables, benches and attractive wooden signs look very smart, as did the matching water pumps, and wall murals. The lovely bi-lingual signs and wildlife notices also looked very well. Your flower features at the derelict buildings were also noted. Particular mention must go to your new flower bed AKA the longest display of window boxes in Ireland. This adjudicator was honestly amused by this original idea as I walked the length of the flower bed. A lot of hard work went into creating this feature and you have been rewarded with an impressive display of colour. This whole feature makes a very impressive impression as you enter the village, but make sure that the new trees here in this bed are properly supported.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The T.T.C. has already identified the natural habitats within the village that could be suitably enhanced to promote and preserve wildlife and fauna. Your appropriate signs are informative and look well. As stated last year, your proposed plans for the river, Community Park and museum areas should encompass all the many opportunities available there already, including hedges, meadows, bat boxes, nesting sites, and water sites. Riverstown is very fortunate to have such pleasant habitats convenient to the centre of the village and we hope that you will optimise them appropriately for the benefit of all.

LITTER CONTROL

There was litter on the streets, around the play area, outside Mace and in the river on the day of adjudication. Your schools programme is admirable and your bins are well maintained with some new bins also noted. The committee and community must remain vigilant in this very important area of the competition.

TIDINESS

While the overall impression of the village was one of general tidiness, there are some premises and areas that detract from this image. Some cable reels have been left in the Play Area and look unsightly. The pub opposite this area also need to remove the barrels and gas cylinders on the pavement; they look both untidy and interfere with access. Similarly the area outside the Mace shop has a lot of products on the forecourt area that look untidy and the NCF Yard and road surface here also looks untidy. There is an area close to the riverbank on the Drumfin Road that also could be cleared and tided. While it must also be said that many tidy yards

were noted and some very effective screening gates were evident throughout the village, one or two of the back yard areas in the village that are visible from the street need to be tided or screened. A very tidy farm yard was noted on the Ballintogher Road at the village sign.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Once again many of the houses throughout the village looked very well. Some well maintained hedges, boundary walls and lawns were noted with some lovely hanging baskets, window boxes, tubs and flowers features at many houses. Well done to all concerned. However, as stated last year, some proprietors need to pay attention to tiding and maintaining their properties and boundaries. The Ross Road housing development looks well with its new landscaping, bins, signs and tidy stone walls. Some nice individual gardens were also noted here.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were once again generally well presented with some nicely faced hedges, stone walls noted, particularly on the Drumfin road. The grass verges on the Ballintogher Road could be tided again. The grass verges on the way to the playing field also need to be tided. The grass verges on the road past the C.O.I. would look even more effective if they were tided just beyond the speed limit signs. There are still some mixed road surfaces and footpaths throughout the village in need of redressing and attention. It is good to see that some of these issues will be addressed by the local authorities in the near future and this work will certainly enhance the village further. The attractive landscaping, trees, furnishings, stone walls and tidy footpaths all added to the first impressions of the village. The work on the Ross Road and the Heapstown road was noted and looks well, indeed all the stonewalls throughout the village and on the approach roads are worthy of your attention. Many individual householders deserve praise for maintaining areas outside their homes on the approach roads.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of your committee is most praiseworthy. Attention to detail and continued relations with your local bodies and organisations are crucial to the full implementation of your plan. Then your beautiful village will be closer to achieving its full potential for the benefit of all.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/00)

The "Welcome" signs and similar style signs are very attractive and give a very nice initial impression. The

bilingual signs (with distances) are also attractive. The wide range of planting – trees, shrubs and perennial plants give Riverstown a unique character. In particular there is broad range of containerised plants rather than a uniform pattern throughout which succeeds very well. The “Longest Window Box Display in Ireland “ is very imaginative and deserves credit – both for the idea and the maintenance of such a vast display. There are a number of very large mature trees Beech, Oak and Sycamore. These lend a lovely atmosphere to the town. These were planted by previous generations that could never have hoped to see them to maturity. Are we planting these same “real” trees for future generations? The retention of the sycamore tree between the new housing development in the centre of the town is very welcome, as is the stone frontage on these buildings.