

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROSSLARE**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	28
The Built Environment	40	27	24
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	22	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	193	174

Rosslare, County Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for major plans submitted, supported by a most useful map, clearly indicating the location of your various projects. We applaud the new and very suitable street name signs. Rosslare, in common with many resort centres, is experiencing unprecedented work on buildings, schemes and individual premises. In many cases, including Rosslare, this has had a significantly adverse impact on road surfaces which will call for swift and effective remedial action. Many wider planning issues are also called into play and accordingly we welcome the creation of the Draft Development and Land Use Plan.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The individual buildings were in most cases well presented, colourful and neat. Catching the eye was the colourful Bay Lounge, while the Water sports Centre was also suitably presented. Kelly's Hotel maintains its usual and expected exemplary floral presentation. The infill houses and the White House Montessori School are appropriate in scale and presentation. The flags flown at the Crosby Cedars Hotel provided movement and colour and are welcomed. The Medical Centre, in general was well presented, but the doors required painting. The delightful thatched cottage on Burrow Road is a gem. The railway station was freshly painted, but the overall impression was negated somewhat by litter on the approach road.

LANDSCAPING

The Development Plan and Land Use Zoning Programme is a splendid start and we applaud the designation of a village centre. This area would now need to be upgraded in deference to its new status and a detailed plan prepared. In general, where possible, ground planting rather than the use of tubs or planters is recommended. Contrast the effect by the poorly filled planters at Bayview Heights, for example, as opposed to the ground planting at Kelly's Hotel. The fine floral shrub display at the Sports and Recreation Centre were somewhat diminished by the broken or missing horizontal timbers in the front fencing. The grounds of St Brigid's Church were delightful. The holy well and the RNLI memorial in the Burrow area were both in good order.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The proposed natural heritage area is, potentially, of major significance, interest and value to the development of the

resort. The interest and attractiveness of the North Slobs, for example, underscores the potential significance of this area if appropriately developed. Within it there are frequent and suitable open spaces and amenity land where small-scale bird life habitats could be considered. Within the overall land use programme attention should be directed to this significant element of the presentation of your resort. The linking of natural amenities and bird life, especially with the coastal walking path, is recommended.

LITTER CONTROL

Although better than average for a busy resort of its size, Rosslare has not totally eradicated the scourge of litter. The greatest concentration was noted on the Railway Station Road and on the paths and road approaches to it. Elsewhere in the resort, amounts were minor but still jarred. Additional litterbins of a suitable size and design are recommended. The litterbin at the RNLI memorial is well positioned and necessary. Additional litter bins, perhaps part sponsored by commercial concerns are suggested, particularly in areas where groups are likely to congregate.

TIDINESS

While many areas were clearly recently swept, neat and well presented, this high level of presentation was not achieved uniformly throughout the centre. Grass at the base of walls and between roads and pavement continues to be a difficulty as highlighted in last year's report. The Recycle for Life installation at the central car park and also at the national school seemed, on the day of adjudication, to be a bit overfull. The foreground of the national school was, itself, untidy and needs to be swept. While the grounds of the famous golf course are very well presented, the front wall does need to be washed and swept at its base. The long, concrete wall, before the Burrow Park, is missing its capping stones entirely. Suitable rendering to the top or their replacement is recommended. Surprisingly, the entrance to the nine-hole golf course was very much below that achieved at the main course, signs looked tatty and quite an amount of weeds had been allowed to accumulate at the entrance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential housing stock in Rosslare is developing at almost an alarming rate. New projects are in hand at Mariner's Court, New Haven, Baypoint Luxury Apartments and elsewhere. Our applause to all those associated with the absolutely superb presentation of Commodore Barry Park. The extensive grassed areas, the suitable and very well tended plants were all delightfully set off by neat and recently swept road surfaces. Granges Close and Grange

Wood were well presented as were South Fields and Rosslare Strand cottages. The excellent presentations of houses and their gardens on the Strand Road was a delight. Sadly, the appalling road surface in Granges Court and the dispirited presentation of a number of houses in this development give rise to real concern. We echo and endorse the comments in last year's adjudication in this respect.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The extensive flower planting on both sides of the road from Wexford is a fitting and uplifting introduction to Rosslare. Slack railings can diminish the overall effect as can a perhaps excessive exposure to signs, both directional and commercial. There are, for example, nine commercial signs at the first junction. Some of which are askew or unstable. The 30mph sign on the approach from Rosslare Harbour is seriously out of alignment. Road surfaces in some locations are below par, particularly at the railway bridge and appear to be positively dangerous in the cul de sac opposite the main golf club entrance. The main road in general was well swept, neat and tidy with, in a few places only, some weeds between the road and pavement. Do check the signage on the Burrow Road, some of which is now quite rusty.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rosslare is a premier resort, attracting substantial numbers to enjoy its many facilities. It is currently expanding in a physical sense at an unprecedented rate. Inevitably the planning pressures and impact on road and other environmental infrastructure will call for a skilled and thoughtful response. This year's entry in all its aspects was a substantial improvement and we applaud the ongoing efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee and the broader community in this achievement.