

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	39
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	27	25
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	221	212

Roscrea, Tipperary North

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

In relation to development and planning, the twenty strong Roscrea Tidy Towns Committee make a huge effort ensuring that Roscrea is presented in the best light through the documentation submitted with the entry form. The detailed form, very clear plans and updates on same, together with excellent map were most beneficial to the Adjudicator on the day. The list of bodies and sponsors who assisted you with your efforts in the last year is impressive and need to be acknowledged:- Tipperary N.R. County Council on a range of issues but specifically for the erection of period lighting on the Mall, Duchas in relation to Heritage buildings/sites, A.D.M in relation to setting up Residents Associations in the Housing Estates, FAS, Street Groups, School students who work on the Green Schools Campaign and Shannon Development in relation to tree planting. Sponsorship and assistance in kind came through Church gate collections, Roscrea Leisure Centre and Roscrea Credit Union. Other bodies who involve themselves in the betterment of the town are the Chamber of Commerce, the County Development Board, Ros Cre Tourism, Roscrea ICA, Roscrea Community Development Council, the Implementation body, Roscrea Heritage Society, Roscrea Leisure Centre Committee, the ESB and, of course, all citizens of Roscrea. The document submitted in relation to the meeting of the Committee with County Councillors and Council Officials demonstrated that much thought had been put into drawing up the agenda. As you state, Roscrea (with a population of 5000) has no Urban Council – this work is all undertaken on a voluntary basis and funded to a large extent by the business people and citizens of the town themselves. This is a very large commitment within one community in view of the amount of work, which has taken place, is taking place and is planned for the future.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As the Duchas leaflet which was enclosed with the entry form states: “ Roscrea contains a remarkable group of national monuments – a large castle containing a fine early 18th century house, a round tower, the west façade of a Romanesque church and a friary church.” Work on a number of these buildings/sites is in progress at present and it was noted that linkages from all historical monuments have been built into the development plan. When all work is completed in a few years the built environment of Roscrea will provide a major attraction for visitors, thereby bringing significant benefit to the town. The new entrance to Glebe House was admired and also the results of the work undertaken to the Bank of Ireland. The ongoing work of Duchas and the Heritage Society, as outlined in the entry form, with regard to major plans now underway to further develop the whole Damer House and Castle Street

Complex are exciting and we look forward to seeing progress in the future. The Gym complex in the grounds of the Sacred Heart Convent is a worthwhile addition to the leisure facilities available in the town. Most business premises in Roscrea are well presented but, unfortunately, the character of the façades in most instances is still hidden behind too many signs. Therefore, it was good to note that plastic signs were removed at Dukes premises in Castle Street during the year. The new quite large HB plastic wall mounted signs were noted at a number of premises. The Petty Sessions building and the Youth Centre were well presented and the Fianna Fail building in Rosemary Square was nicely painted but lacking hanging baskets on the brackets provided. The refurbished fountain in the Square was well maintained. Infill building is taking place in a number of areas and in most instances is of an appropriate design to blend into the streets involved. The Fire and Railway Stations were well kept, but in the case of the Railway Station, more colour in the landscaping would be good to welcome travellers to Roscrea.

LANDSCAPING

The many green and planted areas around the town were looking well on the day of adjudication and work was in progress at the flowerbeds on the old Dublin Rd. The roses in the period garden at the rear of Damer House were delightful – this whole area with its formal gardens and water feature is a haven of tranquillity. The dignified war memorial garden in Ashbury was located. Those residents of Ashbury involved in the planning and execution of this project are to be greatly commended. After the turning into Ashbury the adjudicator came upon teenagers cleaning up the gateway into the GAA grounds – another indication of the Tidy Town commitment in Roscrea. We note that it is hoped to commence work this year on the proposed Garden at the rear of the Round Tower, which will be complemented by the adjoining river. No doubt this will be another pleasant area where visitors may relax. The Glebe House entrance and the Moneen River area was also admired. The planting at the roundabouts is not impressive and some long term planning needs to take place in relation to these.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The many planted green areas and the riverside walks all contribute in this category. We look forward to hearing of further progress in relation to the proposed Wildlife Park as mentioned in your documentation. We note that emphasis on wildlife is made in illustrated lectures given by your local historian, thereby encouraging the awareness of same.

LITTER CONTROL

Your awareness campaign and endeavours to instil a sense of pride in the people of the town appears to be working as there was no great evidence of litter during adjudication

except for a sprinkling of same on some of the approach roads. Litter bins are strategically placed and the daily litter picks demonstrate a commitment by all to your aim of tidiness, absence of litter and illegal dumping. No doubt the presence of the litter warden is assisting in your endeavours.

TIDINESS

Roscrea was mostly neat and tidy except for the itinerants camp opposite J.F. Walsh packaging – it is hoped that the planned provision of a new halting site as mentioned in your documentation will eliminate this problem. Some kerbside weeds were also in evidence and spraying should take place early in the year. The plethora of free standing promotional signs for Rackett Hall Hotel on the roadside area outside the premises are unsightly and should be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses throughout the town are mostly well presented. However, as previously mentioned in reports, the on-street terraced housing would benefit considerably by the introduction of more colour. You mention that this is gradually happening but the adjudicator did not see much evidence of same.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The prominence of cables and poles throughout the main streets of Roscrea continue to be an eyesore and if the town is to progress further in the competition this problem needs to be addressed. A considerable amount of work on major roads and roundabouts has taken place around Roscrea in the last few years – however, the verges and borders in a number of instances have not been finished to a high standard and need attention. Some road signs also need attention such as the leaning sign near Shaws. Since the adjudicators last visit some traffic management has been put in place as Rosemary Street is now one way which is an improvement. However, parking throughout the town is a problem and off-street parking facilities need to be developed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION.

Roscrea is a special town with its unique heritage features and deserves the obvious commitment to its well-being, which is demonstrated by the diligence and hard work of the Tidy Towns Committee. A considerable amount of work is being undertaken in various sites throughout the town at present, which, on completion, should present a more integrated approach throughout.