

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SLIGO**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	32	30
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	19	20
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	192	186

Sligo, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks for your neatly presented application form, helpful maps and neatly typed nominations for awards. Perhaps for next year's competition you could enclose a three to five year work programme outlining your plans for the future development of the town. The refurbishment works at the Court House, Model Art and Niland Gallery and the development of the riverside area to the Garavogue are all fine assets and make a huge difference to the vibrancy and life of Sligo. In particular the enhancement of the Garavogue River in the vicinity of Rockwood Parade and JF Kennedy Parade provide great life to the town with its pedestrian bridge and all kinds of shops, restaurants and pubs.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings of the town generally looked well cared for on adjudication day and in particular the public buildings such as the previously mentioned Niland Gallery, a magnificent building with its fine modern extension, the freshly power hosed Town Hall and refurbished Court House. Our Lady of Mercy Primary School on the Dublin Road looked extremely fresh in yellow with bright red trims. Of note in terms of commercial premises were the Irish Life building, which was very fresh in its prominent location at a junction and Castro's in an orange and cream colour. Hargaden Brothers is a fine traditional pub front and Sligo Bookshop and Mullany Brothers were also extremely fresh. The Belfry is an interesting development in stone with dressed stone trims. The attractive wrought iron work to Ladbroke's was admired. There are a number of plastic signs but these are becoming less and less as the years go by. The numerous churches and banks were well presented in particular the Church of Ireland with its well maintained grounds.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category of the competition was extremely good with many of the buildings on approach roads contributing strongly to its overall impression. The grounds of the Sligo Park Hotel looked extremely well as did those to the Hospice. The riverside areas have previously been mentioned with their attractive street furniture and hard landscaping. There is a good use of Public Art and sculpture throughout the town – of particular note being the unusual mosaic seat by New Ireland Assurance with its associated planting and the W.B. Yeats statue. Attractive planting was admired near the vicinity of the Enniskillen and Bundoran Road junctions leading to Rosses College. More attractive landscaping was noted with grassy banks, trees and permanent planting and flower beds on the Bundoran Road. The planted area adjacent to the Niland Gallery was also greatly admired.

WILDLIFE

Sligo is indeed fortunate in relation to its strong geographical relationship to the Garavogue River on which many majestic swans were noted on the day. Your work in relation to the nature trail at Doorley Park is to be applauded. The wild flower planting at Markievicz Embankment should be magnificent when in full bloom.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better on the day. Litter was noted on the Dublin Road with quite a lot in evidence outside the Peking House Restaurant. On the Bundoran approach road litter was noted further out from the town, more was noted in the vicinity of the North-West Hospice. An abundance of papers and litter were in evidence to the steps of the Court House and in the grilles of the semi-basement level windows. More rubbish was evident behind the railings of an office building opposite the AIB. Weeds, rubble and dumping were noted at a large empty site at a prominent junction.

TIDINESS

Weed control could have been better on the day to the bases of lamp posts on the Dublin Road. The railings to the Model Niland Gallery appeared quite rusty. Some abandoned shops along the main streets give an unfortunate impression especially in the vicinity of Old Market Street where empty, neglected buildings and dereliction create a bad impression. This would also appear to be the case coming back onto High Street from this location and along Market Street. An overgrown site or Park area opposite O'Neill's Bar on the mall looked most unfortunate.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Your Tidy Estates Competition is obviously paying dividends as most of the housing estates were well maintained – of particular note was Marymount behind its stone boundary wall on the Dublin Road. The numerous houses and B&B's along this road were extremely well maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The condition of abandoned and neglected premises has been noted previously under the tidiness heading. Along the Dublin Road advertisement hoardings, of which there are many, create a bad impression. The road itself was quite well maintained with neatly cut grass verges although a couple of out-buildings along this road should be painted. The Bundoran Road was reasonably well maintained although it was getting somewhat rough in the vicinity of the Texaco Garage. The numerous items of modern street furniture were greatly admired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Sligo is a busy and vibrant centre in the north-west of the country. Its ongoing resurgence and refurbishment have provided great life and energy to the town.