

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Roscrea**

Ref: **683**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **229**

Category: **D**

Date: **19/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	37	36
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	229	226

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator noted your comments regarding judging times. You obviously appreciate that the adjudicators have a very tight framework within which to work, due to the large number of entries to the competition. Therefore, unfortunately towns cannot be marked any earlier, as the reports have to be completed and results tabulated within a certain space of time. Towns should not be dependent on the flowering season, but look good all year round! Unfortunately Roscrea cannot enter the urban village category as this section of the competition is intended for villages within larger towns or cities. The adjudicator was impressed by the immense amount of work that has been undertaken in order to preserve Roscrea's unique heritage. Your comments relating to interest in the town's heritage as far back as 50 years ago was very much before its time and to be highly commended. The Black Mill Interpretive Centre should be a marvelous asset to the town when complete. The heritage trail was certainly an interesting one to follow. The information boards were stained and scratched somewhat, and perhaps this could be looked at for next year.

The Built Environment:

The number of derelict sites in the town seems to have reduced over the last number of years. Your work in relation to the conservation of the abbey with its magnificent Romanesque doorway, leading to the Church of Ireland and the fine Black Mill Interpretive Centre building are certainly marvelous assets to the town. The restored castle and Damer house with its magnificent walled gardens were also greatly admired. The Bank of Ireland was well maintained, in its prominent location facing Mall,

although the railings will need painting before next year's competition. The Fire Station is discreetly situated and simply landscaped behind trees. The Tower Guesthouse was admired and Liffey Flowers looked extremely fresh. The charming gothic Methodist church was admired. There are buildings along Main Street that have some unusual and attractive plasterwork which were admired. There are still one or two plastic signs which should be removed and replaced by ones of a more traditional timber variety.

Landscaping:

The adjudicator was pleased to note your comments in relation to the hiring of landscaped experts in order to advise you in this category of the competition. We also noted your comments regarding the hiring of a local contractor by the County Council in order to maintain these areas. Small incidental landscaped areas such as that with the bench and roses on the Birr Road were admired. Along approach roads, attractive beds filled with snapdragons, lupins and roses on grassy banks with trees were attractive. The formal Georgian garden of the castle looked quite charming. The glebe field was well maintained and presented simply.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was pleased to note your work in relation to wildlife calendars presented by shops at Christmas time. The walk along the by-pass will certainly be an interesting one. Your talks with the schools will pay dividends in time. The adjudicator was impressed to hear of your planting of berry and fruit producing trees and shrubs on the roundabouts. The mall area however looked rather overgrown with weeds and dumping apparent at the watersides adjacent to the Catholic church.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was generally quite good. Only a light scattering was evident along the main streets of the town. The litter patrols by residents from individual housing estates is obviously paying dividends. Small amounts of litter were noted in Rosemary Street and Convent Road, in particular at the entrance to the Sacred Heart Convent. One or two litter bins were in need of attention.

Tidiness:

Advertising hoardings should be discouraged, a number of them appeared quite shabby, one in particular on the Limerick Road. A large industrial building looked somewhat neglected. An empty garage between the Birr Road and the Dublin Road created a bad impression. Rusty railings at the abandoned school looked unfortunate. These are minor areas of dereliction. Construction work presumably is still under way at the entrance area to Roscrea Commercial Park. A yard area with building materials at a garage near the Limerick roundabout should be more successfully screened from public view - presumably these materials have not been dumped. Do ensure that building materials are removed once work is complete. Weed control was a problem to chimney pots along Main Street, behind the railings of the Sacred Heart Convent and to the kerbsides at Gaol Road. Some bollards on Main Street appeared quite flaky and should be painted up before next year's competition.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was good. Some attractive houses on the Birr Road were admired. The houses with cast iron pillars and recessed ground floors on the Limerick Road are quite unusual and were greatly admired. Some pretty single storey cottages further along this road were also admired for their attractive gardens. A house opposite St. Cronan's Church of Ireland sports a ruined church in its garden! An attractive creeper clad house at the junction between the Birr and Dublin Roads was admired. The new houses of Glebe View attempt to fit in with the existing streetscape and are therefore quite appropriate to the setting of an Irish country

town. Perhaps some more colour could be considered in this location.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was somewhat inconsistent. The Dublin Road was quite well maintained closer to the town but deteriorated as one went further along it. On the Limerick Road, the grass verges had been hacked back but the dead grass had yet to be removed. Attractive wild flowers such as daisies and clover were admired. The area in the vicinity of Galtee was well maintained - wild roses peeping above the stone wall opposite created a cheerful impression. Along the Birr Road, again the grass had been cut back but the dead grass not removed. This road also improved the nearer one got to the centre of the town. Signage could have been improved upon. Directional signs on the Birr Road appeared quite flaky and the "danger" sign on the Dublin Road was also in bad condition as were a number of signs on the Limerick Road.

General Impression:

Roscrea is a busy and vibrant town with much to offer the visitor. Your work in conserving its fine legacy of heritage is to be indeed commended!