

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Roscrea**

Ref: **724**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **232**

Category: **D**

Date: **05/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	44
The Built Environment	40	38	37
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>229</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for detailed entry form, excellent three year plan update and other supplementary support material.

The Committee has submitted fairly substantial supplementary material and the adjudicator will try to reflect this as best as possible bearing in mind that adjudication reports covering the nine sections have to be completed in a three to four page format.

Excellent work plan outlines what has been done and highlights the interaction between the committee, the greater local community and other organisations.

It was noticeable that there was various elements of work underway on the day of adjudication.

Two very industrious ladies were observed spraying weeds and cleaning up litter at the roundabout area near Service Station. A committee practicing what it preaches.

### The Built Environment:

The town received very positive news during the year as it was confirmed that the Dept of Defence was to relocate to Roscrea as part of the decentralisation programme.

It is important that the Town looks well and that areas of concern such as derelict buildings are addressed and if possible made good over the next few years.

Roscrea is still a busy town and had a high level of traffic on adjudication day.

The standard in this section was quite good, improvements have been made in basic infrastructure such as new and additional footpaths and some new signs.

The level of dereliction has decreased somewhat since this adjudicator last visited in an official capacity some years back.

Commercial Premises have improved and overall public buildings are maintained to a high standard. The lack of a street map, except for the one at the junction of Abbey Street and Rosemary Street, made it difficult to make out side streets and lanes.

The following commercial premises were noted for the manner of presentation.

Oliver Douglas Hardware Store newly painted, Doherty Bros Builders Supply yard with nice stone nameplate.

Both the AIB and the impressive Bank of Ireland buildings were also noted for the style of facade.

The Railway Bar on Grove Street was very well presented and gives a good impression as one comes from Birr.

Phelans Market House and the excellent shop front of Sean Delaney Craft Butchers were also admired primarily for the simple but effective signage.

Phillip O'Rourke's Pub on the corner of Abbey Street is an example of old type shop front of character. The Homecentre deserves immense credit not alone for the quality of front but for the fact that the owner has bi-lingual signs in places.

The public buildings such as the very well maintained St Cronans Church and grounds on the Bunnow River, St Cronans National School, Convent and new Community School are a credit to those entrusted with their upkeep.

Hopefully the proposed undergrounding of wires in Rosemary Street and surrounding area will come to pass as the Town has a myriad of wires criss crossing. This proposed initiative would be a start.

On the negative side a number of premises in focal locations of the town were in a bad state of dereliction although others were in the process of being refurbished.

It is important that Committee members encourage owners to make good these premises where possible.

Maybe a sign of the times but it was sad to see two services stations on the extreme original entrances to the town now unoccupied. I presume both were adversely affected by the bypass.

### **Landscaping:**

The advent of the by pass has meant a greater area on the periphery of the town that requires landscaping.

The plan prepared by Ms Jupe for the roundabouts has been put into action and there was ongoing work on the day of adjudication good deal of thought has been given to the type of tree and shrubs that have been planted and it is hoped that you as a committee will get the desired amount of sponsorship for upkeep purposes.

The following little remembrance gardens Gairdin Daisey Bates on Green Street and Gairdin a Mhoinnin were admired for simplicity of design.

The old Dublin Rd and Green Street had some very nice planting arrangements that included nice rose beds and perennials.

Coupled with the aforementioned areas it would be remiss of me not to mention some excellently presented gardens that were visible in areas such as Short Corville.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

It is noted that the development of the proposed dedicated wildlife area has not yet been undertaken. The discussions with the Schools should continue as it is important to get schoolchildren involved in these type of project that benefit the Community as a whole.

Is it possible to concur with the relevant Council Official to select a suitable location.

In the meantime continue to treat grass verges and hedgerows in accordance with recommendations for wildlife conservation.

### **Litter Control:**

A town the size of Roscrea will always have difficulty in getting everybody singing off the same

hymnsheet when it comes to litter control.

Unfortunately this adjudicator witnessed two instances of littering on the day, both by adults throwing away cigarette butts.

It is isn't for the lack of effort by the Committee in trying to encourage people to take ownership of this problem. All the initiatives in the world will not change some peoples attitude.

The standard was acceptable but that said there was far too much litter at Kennedy Park on the outskirts of the Thurles Road.

Some litter was also visible in the River at the end of Rosemary Street.

Keep up the encouragement and the message may get through some more people.

## **Tidiness:**

The standard in this category was acceptable but the adjudicator is aware that the Committee has weekly clean ups in operation to curb weed growth and the like.

Unfortunately some people will not respond by keeping side areas clean and control overgrowth.

A good number of untidy side areas that were overgrown were noted some within the core and others on the outskirts of the Town.

Owners of buildings such as the old Premier Mollasses premises should show example by cleaning up messy yards and at least spray and clean weeds.

## **Residential Areas:**

The town has a number of established housing estates and quite a few new housing developments. The adjudicator has to highlight areas that have excelled and also sensitively address areas that are not up to standard.

In the former Sheenane on the Birr Rd was very well presented as was Assumption Park.

Adjacent to Assumption Park there is a halting site development that was well presented and in contrast to similar areas in other towns and villages.

Unfortunately Kennedy Park was not up to the required standard with too much litter evident. It is unfair to just comment and not offer suggestions, the Committee should encourage the formation of a residents association that would be a sub section of the main body. In this way it would be able to have ongoing feedback on matters relating to the estate.

The residents of Green Street deserve a special mention for the way in which they have kept the area. Similarly with Short Corville which is very pleasant residential area.

The single storey cottage type residences on the Limerick Road were up to their usually high standard.

Rosslands on the Thurles Road is representative of the standard of new housing developments well designed with well maintained communal areas.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The standard as reported in other years was a little mixed and some internal connecting roads were overgrown and somewhat untidy. A new footpath on one these connecting roads off the main entrance from Kinnity has made an improvement but it should be kept free of litter.

The Kinnity Road could be improved upon, base of trees need to be cleaned and there was some litter evident on this road as well.

The Dublin and Birr roads were impressive with some nice planting arrangements evident on the way in also signs were visible.

The Carrig Road was acceptable as was the Thurles entrance except for a littered area already mentioned in a previous section.

The Shinrone entrance in from Mt St Josephs was in good condition some very nice trees associated with Mount Dudley House. The Training Centre and Waste Water Treatment premises have contributed with effective fencing. Signs were visible and clean

## **General Impression:**

Roscrea has benefited from the work of a very proactive committee and has got support from the

local authority.

The Town looked well if somewhat busy and problems such as dereliction are being addressed and solved in some cases.

Keep up the good work.