

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boyle**

Ref: **199**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **208**

Category: **C**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	25	23
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	17
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	25
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>194</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Boyle is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, your plan only covered the year 2005 and was not accompanied by a map. It would facilitate the adjudication process greatly if a map was provided showing the location of projects undertaken for the year in question. It would also ensure that none of your activities were missed by the adjudicator. Congratulations on funding from local business and the Chamber of Commerce and the co-operation you receive from the business community in general. Your work with the County Council and FAS is effective. Congratulations on work achieved to date and on new developments. Do try to have everything clearly signposted.

### The Built Environment:

Buildings within the town are a handsome mix of two and three storey buildings mostly, some of which still retain their traditional features. Everyone is aware by now of which buildings are in need of attention so these won't be listed this year. Congratulations on the redevelopment of the as yet unnamed building located across from the Royal Hotel on the river bank, this building lifts this area of the town substantially. There is still far too many dated signs and hopefully these will be replaced with more modern and appropriate signage upon the refurbishment of their individual buildings. Some weather stained buildings in the Convent of Mercy complex were noted and some sections beside the Fire Station were also in need of attention. The Feely Stone premises are attractive. St. Joseph's Church continues to be well presented and Boyle Abbey is, of course, the building with the

strongest visual and cultural impact. The historical trail is noteworthy.

### **Landscaping:**

Congratulations on the development of the Pleasure Park. It has been considered for the Landscaping Award. The stretch of river park from the new building at the bridge looked particularly bad in two respects. Under this heading the main problem was sprayed weeds which had not been removed and which gave an impression of neglect. The landscaping here needs to be rehabilitated. There are some fine stands of mature trees at a number of locations around the town, those which were particularly admired were located on the right hand side of the road coming in from the French Park junction and mature trees that had been incorporated into the development of the Pleasure Park. Your green open spaces with sculpture on the N4 are being maintained to an excellent standard as are verges. Your neat hedgerow with young trees on the entrance from the Dublin road (on the N4) is a pleasant introduction to Boyle from this approach.

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

As noted above, the new Pleasure Park was particularly admired. The wildlife garden should now be signposted as it was difficult to find. Boyle harbour enjoys an excellent standard of presentation and has been considered for the Waterside Award, well done. Submit details next year of the involvement of school children in the caring for the wildlife garden as these could be a source of additional marks. Well done on the development of the GAA pitch and soccer pitch.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was excellent over the two days of adjudication. Some scraps were noted in the centre but could not be described as a serious problem. The same point cannot be made however for the litter that was noted on the stretch of river bank from the bridge. This had been spoiled by excessive drinks cans being spread around the seating here, obviously the results of a social gathering the evening before. In fairness to the revellers, there aren't any bins along this stretch of walk, perhaps if a bin was located near each seat that might help to alleviate this problem. One bin was noted up towards the bridge but this is probably not sufficient. Congratulations to the local schools for their green flag initiative and to the community school for setting up a Junior Tidy Towns group.

### **Tidiness:**

Well done on featuring the attractive "Reduce, Re-use, Recycle" sign at the entrance from the N4 and on the excellent standard of presentation and the location of the Bring Bank. It has been considered for the Repak award. A number of undeveloped sites were noted around the town which will probably be developed in the short term so they are unlikely to continue to be problematic. A case in point was the site opposite the Shell garage beside the Pleasure Park. Some untidiness was noted at the entrance to the Hotel car park around its sides, particularly near the fuel tanks.

### **Residential Areas:**

Congratulations to Lower Marion Road for their success in the Tidy Estates Competition for the county. A little more attention needs to be paid to roadside boundary walls in some instances. The same point can be made in respect of Hanley Avenue. There are some very nice colour schemes in both developments. Lots of new residential developments have been noted where work is still in progress, some on the entrance from the French Park junction and St. Joseph's Avenue look promising and it is hoped that the residents will take care of their own green areas, kerbs, landscaping etc. and become involved in the Tidy Towns initiative.

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

The rails near the railway bridge had not been painted by the time of adjudication, perhaps this will be achieved for next year. Street furniture throughout the town looked quite well, especially the modern lampstandards. It was a pleasure to note the absence of visually obtrusive wirescape in the town centre. The public car park was neatly presented, however some weeding was necessary to the landscaping here. The car park at the Boyle harbour, together with stone walls, were exceptionally well presented and, as noted above, is being considered for an award. The pedestrian access from the N4 to Boyle harbour is delightful. We wish you well in the refurbishment of roads and footpaths where necessary.

### **General Impression:**

Boyle creates a favourable impression at first glance, particularly at the entrance from the N4 and Boyle harbour, Boyle Abbey and the town centre. However some parts of the town don't bear closer scrutiny which is what is necessary for success at national level in the competition. Congratulations on your substantial increase in marks this year.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**