

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rooskey**

Ref: **303**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **225**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	225	220

Overall Developmental Approach:

Rooskey is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included your five year plan, this made interesting reading and we wish you well in its implementation. Your location on the River Shannon presents wonderful opportunities for developing your recreational amenity status, however the fact that the village spans two counties, both Leitrim and Roscommon, must present some difficulties in gaining co-operation and permission for all works. Your plan to create a memorial garden at the Church of Ireland cemetery featuring the headstones on the wall and taking records for the future is a nice touch and we look forward to its completion. Well done on fund-raising and other co-operation and on your liaison with both County Councils, FAS and indeed in achieving the support of the local community.

The Built Environment:

The Mount Carmel Church was most attractive, with its colour combination of soft yellow and a grey trim. The school and its grounds looked well also, however its boundary wall was quite weather stained. We note from your plan that you have sought permission to plant trees on the wide footpath outside of the boundary wall to the Glanbia complex. Hopefully you will be successful here as these high, drab walls do nothing to enhance this area of the village. Some colour is suggested for the Garda station and adjoining residence. A number of properties leading up to the Mount Carmel B&B at the bridge need improvement. Their appearance suggest that they may be earmarked for redevelopment in the not too distant future. Tighe's Centra premises has been

beautifully painted and other well painted premises include Fabrics Direct. We still await the painting of the quayside building Diesel, Fishing, Tackle. The hotel and adjoining pub both look well.

Landscaping:

The new sculpture at the church / school car park was admired for both the design concept and presentation. Mature trees at several locations around the village are a valuable part of your heritage, however some old pines in the church grounds don't look very healthy. Perhaps they should be underplanted and eventually removed. Maturing trees, particularly at the church / school car park have established themselves well. New shrubberies have been noted. At the time of adjudication they were not sufficiently mature to make a strong visual impact but no doubt they will do so in time.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Stands of Montebretia on the entrance from the Strokestown Road looked well although they were not yet in flower. Wildflowers behind the low bridge wall in the same area were noted. The banks of the River Shannon within the environs of the village offer wonderful opportunities for wildlife projects and we look forward to seeing some of these in time. Your plan to develop a leisure walk along the banks of the disused canal are exciting and the adjudicator looks forward to enjoying this at some time in the future. We wish you well in your negotiations with Waterways Ireland and other agencies in this respect.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent at the time of adjudication. The village was almost entirely litter free. We note from your details that you monitor the litter situation on a daily basis. Do keep us informed of your activities and your overall litter management strategy as these can earn you additional marks. It can't be easy to keep a village of the size of Rooskey, and indeed its location with through traffic on both the road and the river, litter free but your community has managed to do it, well done.

Tidiness:

The recycling point was very tidy and its location was good because it can serve the needs of both the boating community as well as the local community. Well done on this. It is good to note that you have participated in the National Spring Clean Week. A derelict residence was noted behind the church and an undeveloped site beside the 'Seamus Feeny' premises. Given the demand for prime development sites, these will probably not remain problematic for long.

Residential Areas:

A number of new housing estates have been noted and all appear to be being finished to a high standard. One located behind the church was very much a work in progress and it hoped that road surfaces, footpaths and landscaping, including the access road to the estate will all be finished to a high standard. Keep people aware of the necessity to maintain their roadside boundary walls cleaned or well painted. Hopefully the boundary wall to the house for sale located on the entrance from the Strokestown Road will be refurbished upon reoccupancy.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Verges of approach roads were quite well presented and nameplates looked well. A road sign on the Strokestown Road was in need of refurbishment. Car parks are nicely presented and reference has already been made to the church / school car park and the car park on the quayside, including the new sculpture. The access road to the new housing estate behind the church is really bad and hopefully as noted above that will be refurbished in due course. Two lampstandards on the quayside

at the Centra look as though they've been knocked by a vehicle and are in need of straightening. Cuttings which have been left behind on the verge on entering from the Carrick On Shannon Road have become discoloured and look unattractive. Street furniture in general is well presented. We note from your plan your interest in carrying out refurbishment work on the bridge and we wish you well in this.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Rooskey is one of a busy village with a high throughput of both river and road traffic and one can only admire the community for their success in having it look so well, thank you.

Second Round Adjudication:

A number of items of litter on the Dublin approach road to the village created a bad impression, given its size. Advertising hoardings should be discouraged as these give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance. There is a similar problem at the bridge where the profusion of fingerpost signs should be regulated in terms of design in order to give a more cohesive impression. A directional sign on the Strokestown Road was in bad condition and the poles of speed limit signs were somewhat rusty. In terms of the Built Environment, the buildings along the main road were well presented, although those at the opposite side of the bridge appeared somewhat neglected in comparison. The Weir Lodge looked very fresh in deep blue, as did the Post Office in a similar shade, although its boundary wall appeared somewhat patchy in its appearance. Perhaps some landscaping could be considered in this latter location as its car park/forecourt area appears a little harsh and bare at the moment? The Shannon Key West Hotel in stone was in good condition. The gable wall of the garage in this location should be repainted before next year's competition. The concrete post and rail fencing along this route should be replaced in time with some attractive native stone walling. The Catholic church looked well in yellow and the new fountain and sculpture, and associated gravelled landscaping was admired. The boundary wall to the adjacent school had not been painted since the first round judging and should be attended to before next year's competition. Centra was very fresh and sported some cheerful adjacent planting. Perhaps this could be extended to the quayside beyond, as the picnic tables currently look a little sad and isolated? The provision of the new service block in this location will certainly make a distinct difference! New housing should be finished to a high standard in terms of materials and landscaping in order to blend seamlessly with its vernacular surroundings. The adjudicator noted that a new development was planned at Mount Carmel B & B and it is to be hoped that any new development at this location will ensure the retention of the fine architectural features of the building such as its timber sash windows and fine multi-flued chimney breast. The adjudicator was pleased to note that you have commenced a new Three Year Plan this year and wishes you all the best with its implementation! Rooskey is a wonderfully peaceful location,