

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Roscommon Town**

Ref: **122**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **227**

Category: **D**

Date: **08/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	
The Built Environment	40	31	
Landscaping	40	35	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	
Litter Control	40	28	
Tidiness	20	11	
Residential Areas	30	21	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	
General Impression	10	8	
TOTAL MARK	300	227	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Roscommon Town is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed submission which was most informative, particularly in respect of your overall development approach and your activities to inform the local community. You are also commended for how closely you work with the local authority and your excellent working relationship. Roscommon is a beautiful town with many fine heritage features. It is also a town that is undergoing tremendous development and can expect a large population increase over the next few years. Your activities in bringing Lough Na Neanne Park to fruition and your work in respect of the retention of Mote Park for the community shows the far sightedness and deep understanding of the future needs of the town. With all of the work in progress on development sites on approach roads and entrances to Roscommon Town the town has not yet reached its full potential in terms of Tidy Towns. However these developments will cease over the next few years and then Roscommon will come into its own as a place to live and visit.

The Built Environment:

Well done on your approach to local property owners to encourage them to paint their premises and remove unsightly signs and indeed to maintain their curtilage areas. Your activities in these respects have been effective for the most part. The railway station and its yards were neatly presented and hopefully the barn type structure with the corrugated roof will be upgraded to

complete the picture at this location. A number of shopfronts were admired which included Wards of Goff Street and John Doorley's pub in Castle Street. Attention should now be paid in both of these instances and many others to removing dated signage. This point is also made in respect of D. Fullards and Roscommon Framers. The Roscommon Bookstore was admired. The new government offices on Convent Road were admired and have been considered for an award as has the new Business Park. In terms of built environment the worst presented street is Castle Street, especially in relation to the Cinema with the shabby awnings. The China Royal Palace building is an important focal point in the streetscape and deserves sensitive and appropriate redevelopment. The Abbey National School and its grounds were beautifully presented. The canopy of the garage beside the Roscommon Tyre Centre is an eyesore. Well done on developments in the Market Square, it looks really well.

Landscaping:

This adjudicator enjoyed the inspection of Lough Na Neanne, it was a pleasant place to visit and features Roscommon Castle as a backdrop together with appropriate landscaping. It has been considered for an award. New seating at the mature landscaping at the Spinney was noted and roundabouts were nicely landscaped and were being nicely maintained. All of them featured advertisement signage which was inappropriate and should be eliminated. The kerbed soft areas in the Supervalu car park had not yet been planted at the time of adjudication, no doubt this is to follow soon. Container plants within the town centre were admired for their colour and profusion. Well done to the workers in the Clorina House Day Care Centre. Hopefully land owners will respond favourably to the request of the Tidy Towns Committee for the planting of trees on their lands which line approach roads.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As mentioned previously, Mote Park is a wonderful amenity with its woodland areas, nature trail, walks and plethora of wildlife and the committee and the community in general have done very well to have ensured this fine amenity facility continues into the foreseeable future for public use. Well done on this development, it too has been considered for an award. The bird walk and watching facility at Lough Na Neanne is a fine development together with wildlife signage here and the adjudicator enjoyed the bird watching experience facilitated by the planting of osiers. Well done also on your heightening of awareness of birdlife in the surrounding area by hosting talks presented by an expert. Some consideration might be given to the planting of hedgerow along the wire and post fencing of Lough na Neanne on Lough Road, this would also be valuable habitat for wildlife.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent on adjudication day, both in the town centre and on approach roads. A small lapse was noted however in the Supervalu car park. Well done on your initiatives for heightening awareness throughout the year which included the Tidy Towns float in the Easter parade, liaison with the students of Roscommon Community College (and by the way congratulations on their achieving Green Flag status). Congratulations also to the Tidy Towns Committee for eliciting from Tesco a prize with a litter theme for the Tidy Towns Competition. Your use of local media such as Shannon Side Radio and Ross FM together with local papers such as the Roscommon Champion and Herald to advertise and print articles to inform people of clean ups and to encourage people to join the association. No doubt this has all contributed to the litter free status of the town and the improvement on last year in this respect. Your participation in the IBAL Litter Survey is noted.

Tidiness:

There has been a big improvement in recent years on the area beyond the railway station, however there are still a few underdeveloped sites some of which look quite unsightly with (derelict cars on one site). Work in progress has been noted in this area so it is not unrealistic to anticipate that the entire area will soon be upgraded and eyesores will be just a memory. Sprayed weeds on the access

road to Roscommon Castle suggests neglect and the vehicle barrier to the car park can only be described as an eyesore. The neatly boarded up vacant premises for sale near the railway station is commendable. The numerous building sites and unfinished curtilage areas to work in progress on approach roads look untidy but this situation won't pertain indefinitely.

Residential Areas:

Recently completed residential developments are presented to a high standard of finish. Beech Grove looked well with its beautiful landscaping and attractive stone wall and well maintained green areas. Ashbrook Estate is still a work in progress but it is looking good so far. Wilson Close on the Galway entrance to the town provides an excellent introduction to Roscommon from this road. Some dwellings on Convent Road are in need of improvement in the shape of cleaning and / or painting. Cognisance has been taken of the Spinney development also. The next challenge for the Tidy Towns Committee will be to bring all your new residents on board the Tidy Towns initiative and to integrate them fully into the social fabric of Roscommon Town.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Market Square looked especially well at the time of adjudication and it was a pleasure to note its wirescape free aspect and attractive lampstandards. We note from your submission that plans have been prepared for the ducting of service cables along Main Street and hopefully Goff Street also as there are excellent views both into the town and out of the town to the surrounding countryside on both streets. It would be a pity to duct cables on main street and not continue it to Goff Street. We look forward to the completion of this work as the wirescape on both streets rank amongst the worst in the country. Street furniture is clean, legible and maintained nicely painted and this includes road signs for the most part. New stretches of footpath have been noted and the building materials used have been admired.

General Impression:

Roscommon is a town in transition with a rapid population growth and improvements to all aspects of its environment, it was presented to a high standard on adjudication day.

Second Round Adjudication:

New trees were noted planted at the Peugeot Dealership on the Laneborough road, which will make an attractive landscaping feature in the not too distant future. This road was a little overgrown further out, causing directional signage to be somewhat obscured. There are a number of empty sites along this stretch of road, which will, hopefully, be developed in the not too distant future. Streets generally looked well cared for, with much development work taking place. There are still a few plastic signs, which should be removed and replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety. There was also evidence of fly posting which is a practise, which should actively be discouraged. Signage at the lower end of Goff Street was marred by red algae growth. Market Square is an attractive space with the Bank of Ireland, Old Jail, Museum and Gleeson's Guest House all contributing well to its appearance. The sign outside the Tourist Centre appeared somewhat flaky and should be attended to before next year's competition. The Loughnaneanne Park is a marvellous facility to have so close to the town centre. It has a high level of tree planting and uses appropriate materials and indigenous planting – using such items as timber decking and bull rushes! There was much evidence of both bird life and human activity on the day! There are some attractive laneways throughout the town, which are ripe for further development. The car park area to the rear of the Main Street appeared a little neglected. The standard of litter control on Second Adjudication Day was quite good given the size of the town but a very light scattering was evident in places. The Liscannor flags etc that form the paving on streets was admired but perhaps a cleaning system can be considered in the near future? In terms of commercial premises on Main Street both the Comfy Café and Tatler's were admired. There is obviously a high level of enthusiasm for the Tidy Towns Cause, which is evident to any visitor to the town of Roscommon. Well done to all concerned! It was

a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit the town for the first time!