

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Boyle** Ref: **290**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **221**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **05/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>221</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The information submitted with the entry form was very helpful at adjudication time – especially the map which helped to locate the various features of the town. A three to five year plan would be very useful at this stage so that all the priorities could be identified and a programme made to implement these with a time scale. This could be used as a yardstick of progress from year to year to assess progress. The Boyle Pride of Place challenge is a very useful feature as this also helps to initiate improvements. The membership of the 25 tidy towns committee members is very significant and a great tribute the community spirit in the town.

### **The Built Environment:**

There are a number of landmark buildings that define the town very well and their maintenance and care is crucial to the integrity of this town. The Abbey is a wonderful feature and the work of the OPW proceeding at present was noticed. The Kings House and surrounds are looking very well and this forms an important tourism aspect. The railway station, major bank buildings, the small stone building by the bridge, old Courthouse, Health Centre buildings and Plunkett Home look well presented. The round Catholic Church offers an interesting style in architecture to the town and the Church of Ireland appears well at the top of the hill. While there are a number of well painted and well presented business premises through the streets there is also a large number that needs a significant overall. Paint, general décor and structural improvements are needed on many streetside buildings. The post office is in serious need of attention to paint and décor.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping is highlighted in the Pleasure Grounds. This is a wonderful feature and a great credit to all concerned with its development and maintenance. This park is both well designed and well managed and uses the river to great effect. The combination of mature trees, herbaceous plants and waterside paths and seating areas forms a lovely picture and a very useable space including the childrens playground. The planting

at the Plunkett Home is attractive and the tree planting at the square looks well. Station Road/Plunkett Avenue was also noted for its landscape features. The large public car park is well laid out with good planting areas but many of these are overrun with weeds and this needs much more attention than it is currently receiving. The front entrance to the Kings House looks attractive and is in keeping with the style of the buildings. Good landscaping was also noted along the riverside at Boyle Lawn.

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

The pleasure park is a fine resource under this heading and more could be done to encourage the awareness of the natural environment by providing information. The development of the boardwalk project appears to be an exciting one and hopefully easy access from the town can be organised for this. It was difficult to find any information in the town about this boardwalk. The walkway – Boyle lawn, by the riverside is an attractive walk and this too could play a part in the wildlife observation plans. Involvement of schools is important under this heading and the accumulation of local information could be used to form a store of knowledge of what may be seen in the area, where and when.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control on the day of the visit was very disappointing. There was litter noted in many places around the town particularly on the street from the main Street towards the Church of Ireland by the Credit Union and also in the Pleasure Park. The initiatives described in the entry form are all very positive. The achievement of two schools having green flag status is excellent. The day to day collection of litter and campaigns to have litter freedom are vitally important on an on going basis. The style of litter bins is also important as if the litter can be blown out of the bins or easily removed by birds they need to be reassessed.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The green flag acquisition of schools is commendable. The civic recycle centre is well conducted with a wide range of recycling possibilities and the space is very clean, tidy and well run. Many people were observed using this facility. This aspect of the competition is about concentrating both on the need to choose materials and methods that avoid producing waste and to consider environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste that is generated. A campaign of awareness with both homeowners and business people needs to be started to give an understanding of the importance of waste management and recycling. Compost heaps can be made for green materials, avoidance of using materials that do not degrade easily and separation of the various materials so that they can be recycled. The Pleasure Park perhaps could develop a composting unit rather than placing all the waste material under the trees at the far end of the park.

### **Tidiness:**

There is a good level of tidiness around the main areas of the town. The square is well organised and the one way traffic system helps the flow. Too much on street parking seems to be allowed especially at the bridges street area. The idea of parking on a bridge has never been observed in any town before. Heavy traffic turning into Bridge Street from the main street has difficulties negotiating this turn with the parking on both sides of the street. The entrance to a housing estate on the street beyond the Credit Union is very untidy with an unfinished entrance. The many buildings that need attention do not give a tidy appearance either. Elder tree growing from the roof of the Credit Union buildings was noted.

### **Residential Areas:**

There is a vast range of residential areas in the town. A number of streetside residences were noticed through the streets which is a great feature as it keeps a great spirit of life within the town. Many of these were well presented and show pride in their appearance and others are in need of some painting. The Termon Road has many fine gardens and colourful hanging basket displays and great credit is due for all of this. A number of houses along that road need to have their roadside walls painted and repaired.. The housing estates are well tended. New housing estates especially need to have proper landscaping completed at the entrances and on any green open spaces within the estates. A watchful eye should be kept on such developments so that the developers do not leave the site without fully completing this work through their landscaping subcontractors. A number of single residences along the approach roads appear to the road frontage and contribute well in this respect.

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

The new system of roadways is very helpful and creates a better flow. Road surfaces are reasonably good in most places with a few exceptions – for instance the approach to the railway station. The removal of overhead cables has had a great effect. The roundabouts are barely perceptible in places and a review of these would be worthwhile. The approach roads are well tended and the care of trees and verges helps at the towns entrances.

**General Impression:**

The pleasure park is the most outstanding recent development in the town. This is a very beautiful feature and a great asset to the town. The Kings House is a lovely asset also and these together with the Abbey confer a great character on the town. The number of buildings needing attention is disturbing and needs urgent attention. Attention to detail is also important in relation to the car parks, square and pathways leading from the carpark to the Bridge Street area and to the Kings House.