

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Roosky** Ref: **554**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **232**
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	232

Overall Development Approach:

The development plan was not submitted with the entry form this year. Last years development plan which covered five years made interesting reading according to the notes from last years adjudicator and hopefully the actions from this plan will be implemented fully. It is wise to submit the plan each year with the form. There is considerable building development taking place within and around the town and while this has its benefits it also puts pressure on facilities and resources. It is important that the new estates become an integral part of the town and that by residents' association meetings the tidy towns committee makes itself aware of the needs of the people in these estates. A map would be very helpful for adjudication so that all parts of the town could be pinpointed, named and this would ease access.

The Built Environment:

The Hotel and associated buildings on the main road side of the bridge look well and form a good impact along the roadside. The bridge is very attractive when viewed from the waterside and picnic areas. The rails at the start of the bridge need some attention to paint. The Centra store across the river also looks very well with the high standard of painting. The Diesel building further along the quayside continues to look untidy as indeed are the surrounding buildings. Hopefully a remedy can be applied here as it forms such a prominent view from across the river. The School building, Church with its lovely colour scheme and the Nursing home all make a very positive contribution to the built environment at this point of the town. Many stone walls through the town lend good character and are well maintained, the Glanbia complex by its nature does not appear as a beautiful building so perhaps as mentioned last year some tree planting may create a better impression to the front of the building. The main street has a number of well presented premises both residential and business – the post office is an interesting colour and displays a pleasant fountain giving it originality. The old Mount Carmel B and B needs a little attention

Landscaping:

The landscaping at the school, church and surrounding car parking areas looks w very well and gives a good impression at this point in the town. The area from the bridge to the church tends to have little landscape feature. This street is very wide and a programme of tree planting would be ideal along this way. Hedges and trees along the roadside on the lead into the village give a pleasant effect. Many individual gardens play a major part in the landscape of the town as their front gardens enhance the roadsides The area across the road from the hotel is pleasantly landscaped giving a nice effect by the waterside. Colourful containerised summer plantings of bedding plants add a sparkle of colour in some places and these are welcome. The additional flower beds and tree planting along the road sides helps to produce a better effect also.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There appears to be great opportunity for the enjoyment of features of the natural environment along the river banks and this is an aspect that would benefit from more development. Plans last year to make a leisure walk along the banks of the disused canal seemed like a good idea and worth further development. Involvement of school children in this aspect of the town is very important so that they learn the value of the natural environment and have respect for the great facilities that surround them.

Litter Control:

There is a good level of litter control in general. Some small amounts of litter were noted. Looking at last year report a similar situation was mentioned at the first adjudication while a less favourable report was made at the second adjudication – perhaps in the later summer when more tourists are present the litter control scheme needs better attention.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycle area is helpful in this respect but the whole concept under this heading infers more than litter control and some projects to help in this regard should be initiated 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.

Tidiness:

The quay side areas were tidy with the exception of the diesel building. The recycle banks seem to operate well and they were clean. There were bags of rubbish nearby associated with other green bins from fishing and a sign warning people not to place rubbish with them yet in themselves they are not acceptable as they are. The main street could be improved as stated already with some tree planting as it tends to need a little lift. Any buildings they show signs of dilapidation should be remedied.

Residential Areas:

The many residential houses along the main street and the approach roads look well in general and contribute well to the appearance of the town from the roadside. New developments rely very much on the entrances and the open spaces to present a good appearance. The cleaning and power hosing of paint, boundary walls and gates that has been done is very helpful as with all the passing traffic grim quickly builds up.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There is considerable traffic along the main road making it extremely hazardous to cross. The walkway by the side of the bridge is also dangerous for pedestrians as trucks pass and at some stage a walkway suspended on the outside of the bridge would be very welcome, safe and act as a nice amenity. The main approach roads on the main roads appear very well; some clusters of signage are troublesome at the turn for the bridge. The road verges are well maintained with a pleasant green verge and hedges and trees. Roads within the town have some holes and bumps and hopefully these will be rectified soon. the Strokestown and Tarmonbarry roads are attractive and quickly return to a rural style on leaving the town

General Impression:

Rooskey has a very pleasant setting and much should be made of this. The challenges of new housing estates, owners of buildings that are reluctant to comply with the best interests of the appearance and context of the town and heavy traffic all face the committee. Persistence and determination usually succeed in achieving the best results

