

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Riverstown** Ref: **417**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **250**
Category: **B** Date(s): **29/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	250

Overall Development Approach:

Your Five Year Plan was impressive. Congratulations on your Pride of Place award a number of years ago. The fact that you have so many volunteers is impressive. The assignment of different areas to individuals is a good idea. You would appear to have a good working relationship with Riverstown Community and Sligo County Council. The fact that you were the first town in County Sligo to enter the competition is to your credit and it was pleasing to note that you have kept up a high level of enthusiasm!

The Built Environment:

Chapel Street and Church Road were generally well presented, with shopfronts looking smart and fresh. The Post Office was admired with its floral displays and hedging. Do ensure that you consult with an expert when removing render from the facades of buildings. This may not only be incorrect from a conservation point of view but may lead to problems with water penetration, as vernacular street buildings in Irish country towns were intended to be faced in plaster. McDermott's Bar and Lounge was quite fresh with attractive hanging baskets. The Catholic Church was admired with its striking bell tower. The nearby School was very fresh. The Butchers adjacent to the recycling area should be repainted before next year's competition. The Sligo Folk Park was visited and admired. The Pharmacy was fresh and well presented, as was the Co-Op.

Landscaping:

Incidental landscaped spaces throughout the town made a powerful impact. The children's playground area was fresh and neat. Work seemed to be taking place adjacent to it. The Community Park looked well but it was felt that further landscaping should be considered in this location. The landscaping to the Folk Park entrance area was admired. Timber fencing and pots of nasturtiums made a striking display at the Ballycawley entrance to the town. Another floral display on this road was admired. The village pump opposite the Church could be painted up before next year's competition. Grass banking, a picnic bench and planting

on the Heapstown Road was admired. Low stone walling and planting on the Heapstown Road created a good impression. Attractive landscaping was admired opposite Nairn's. Landscaping beside Lisurlar and the Co -Op were also admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Further provision for bat boxes in the Folk Park is impressive. The Crannog project sounds interesting. The riverside walk is a marvellous initiative - perhaps further landscaping and provision of information boards here would be an idea for next year? Existing signage elsewhere in the town has become so stained that it is quite unreadable. The bird hides and decking area in the wetlands area of the Folk Park sound like marvellous ideas.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control was good on the day. There were minor outbreaks along Chapel Street and Church Road however. A few papers and cans were also noted at the Heapstown Road.

Waste Minimisation:

The Recycling Bring Bank was neat on the day. The National School's participation in the Green Flag initiative is good - they seem to be playing a very active part in it! The compost and recycling bins in each classroom are a very impressive achievement and they are certainly heading in the right direction! The fact that the composting facility was made using recycled palettes is even more impressive! The knock-on effect that this is having on households, due to the enthusiasm of the children is marvellous. The fact that the school also has facilities for the collection of batteries, mobile phones and ink cartridges is excellent! The provision of composting facilities and the segregation of litter collected is to your credit.

Tidiness:

The town was generally neat in appearance on the day. A minor outbreak of weeds was noted at the speed limit sign on the Ballycawley Road and outside the School. Outbuildings should not be neglected when considering overall presentation. One near the town nameplate on this road appeared in need of freshening up and re-whitewashing. There were a number of low walls which appeared to be in need of re-whitewashing on Chapel Street and Church Road. Discourage fly posting as this can give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance - some was noted on the Heapstown Road. As previously mentioned, some of the perspex to signage needs to be replaced as it is badly stained - to a wildlife sign on the Heapstown Road, another opposite the Folk Park and another opposite the Pharmacy.

Residential Areas:

Existing street houses looked well cared for. The new housing estates are generally unobtrusive. Keep up the good work in relation to ensuring that they are finished to a high standard in terms of materials and landscaping. The limestone nameplates and logo at Lisurlar are most unusual and were greatly admired. The road to a new housing estate on the Ballycawley Road was in need of completion. An attractive garden with lupins and hanging baskets was admired on the Ballycawley approach to the town. The entrance area to the adjacent estate was admired, although the low walling to the front was in need of whitewashing. Brookfield Close looked fine - the adjacent houses were greatly admired. The tree planting at Cherry Tree Park opposite the Church was impressive! A marvellous rose garden to a bungalow on the Heapstown Road looked colourful and welcoming. A garden opposite the recycling area on Main Street was greatly admired, as were the brick single storey houses by the Health Centre.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads to the town were generally well cared for and the welcome signs create a good impression on the visitor. Some signage appeared neglected and should be washed down. Verges on the Ballycawley approach road were a little rough. The Heapstown Road was in better condition. Road surfaces were in a very poor state so it was with pleasure that the adjudicator read of their imminent improvement. The children crossing sign near the school needed attention. New directional signs are looked forward to.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for this adjudicator to revisit Riverstown after a number of year's absence. The town is still striving to appear to its best advantage.