

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosses Point** Ref: **1100**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **250**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	50	25	26
Landscaping	50	39	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27	28
Litter Control	50	31	34
Tidiness	30	15	17
Waste Minimisation	20	12	11
Residential Areas	40	28	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	244	250

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Rosses Point to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition. You have a tremendous range and number of events in 2012 which is possibly a challenge for the size of your committee but no doubt the organisers work closely with you and other local businesses.

It would be useful in future for your adjudicator to have a map marking road and estate names. Do not forget to include details of your long term plan for your community. Such an Overall Development Approach can be a simple page with aims and objectives for your committee for the next 3-5 years. It helps you measure how well you are doing. It is also important to work with the youth of the area so it was good to read of your links with the school.

The Built Environment:

Your Garda Station looked well as did most of the public buildings such as Harry's Bar and The Waterfront. The traditional sign of the golf club was very in keeping with the area. There was an older building at the first beach with no apparent function/name. This could also do with the roof being re-painted. Nice public benches were provided. Your work had commenced at the harbour and this was looking well when your adjudicator visited. Also your toilets were open, clean with paper and hand towels provided – this was good to see.

Landscaping:

The open grass spaces by the waterfront was well tended. It was good to see a difference in mowing regimes along here to allow some grasses and plants to flower and provide nectar for wildlife. This would no doubt

save you time and money also in the management of the area.

There was a nice planted embankment of shrubs to the right upon arrival. There are some older planters that perhaps could be put out of use in the village as they appear to have reached the end of their lifespan? There are also some well-tended flower beds in the Catholic Church's car park. Also your adjudicator admired the old traditional pump and bath which was situated very nicely here.

You mention the difficulties of planting near the sea. The planting of native hedging will take some time to mature but is much more likely to survive the harsher winters that have decimated the Cordylines and Escallonia hedges. Cotoneaster, whilst not native, is a good food source for birds. Your adjudicator highly recommends the Heritage Council publication 'Conserving and Enhancing Wildlife in Towns and Villages' www.heritagecouncil.org.uk for landscaping that provides year round structure and provides food and shelter for wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are fortunate to be one of only two areas in Sligo to gain Blue Flags for their beaches this year. Perhaps you can work with the Environmental Section of the County Council to promote education/awareness activities here or develop a wildlife trail for families?

Well done on your efforts to increase the hare population – the wildlife details on the golf course website are to be commended and could be the basis of some wildlife promotion work that you could do.

A small clump of Japanese knotweed was noted growing on the shoreline by the pavement wall. This is a highly invasive species and details of the best management of it can be found at www.invasivespeciesireland.com.

Litter Control:

There has been some great work with picking up litter etc across the Rosses Point Community. Some litter was seen on the road near the tennis courts. The beach appeared to be litter free at the time of visit. There were no Pooper Scoopers in the dispensers either at first beach or at the waterfront. If these are not to be provided, could the dispensers be removed too so as not to raise expectations? Litter bins were clean and fully serviced.

Tidiness:

The Rosses Point Recycling Centre was nicely fenced and looked good on the day of your adjudicator's visit. Perhaps the Lazena field gates could be painted? Few weeds were noticed during adjudication.

Signage - There were a lot of 'slow down' signs in Rosses Point. In the beach car park there were nine separate signs. Your adjudicator questions whether or not Rosses Point needs so many different signs in one area, and if so, could they not at least follow the same style? One suggestion for a long term action for the village would be, in association with the County Council, to audit your signage. From this you could then make recommendations on what would look and work best, where.

There is a bent pole in the Catholic Church car park.

Waste Minimisation:

This category of the competition refers to the prevention of waste being produced and reduction of items to landfill. Consider car boot sales, composting workshops, bus routes, school book rental schemes etc.

Residential Areas:

Well done to the many home owners who look after their homes so well and manage the pavements and keep them weed free on the areas near their homes. Greenland Villa has a lovely balcony. Greenlands and the communal area, the location of Rosses Point's golf course's 8th tee of 1884, was admired. The Bennicks was very well maintained and the lovely cottage beside the graveyard was also admired. Some old advertising hoarding should be removed on the unfinished estate as you drop back down to the shoreline.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Arriving from Cartron the ox-eye daisies provided a natural setting for the entrance into Rosses Point. It was nice to drive around the village and most roads were well maintained.

General Impression:

It is hoped you will endeavor to involve more of the community, perhaps by e.g. contacting the various festival committees or the local scouts group to help you develop a long term plan. Marks can be easily gained with a little effort on this.

Your village attracts many visitors and no doubt they enjoy the amazing sea and landscapes when they are here. You have worked hard to ensure that the facilities and amenities enhance their visit to Rosses Point also. Rosses point is a lovely coastal community.