

Tidy Towns 1997

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre :

**STROKESTOWN**

County :

**ROSCOMMON**

Category :

**B**

## Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	24
The Built Environment	40	20	20
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	20	21
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	17
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>152</b>

## **Strokestown, County Roscommon**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Strokestown is welcome to the 1997 Tidy Towns Competition. The town is a very beautiful settlement located on a busy thoroughfare. Its main features are its good wide streets which accommodate landscaping and its architectural and amenity heritage i.e. Strokestown Park House, the Heritage Centre and of course, the river. The town also features many handsome single and double storey properties. A lot of fine work has been accomplished, no doubt under the town renewal scheme, and this has enhanced the townscape tremendously. Some suggestions have been made below which you may care to use as the basis of a planned work programme. We look forward to many repeat visits and wish you well in all of your activities and with the further development of the Weybridge House and well. Thank you for your continued participation in the competition.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The grounds of the unidentified commercial premises at Bridge street (appears to be a haulage business) could be landscaped as they are large, open, and bare looking in appearance. It is good to note the planting of climbing plants to the wire and post fencing. There are still too many dated plastic neon signs on shops and pubs, keep up the efforts to have these if not eliminated altogether at least replaced with better quality signage. The gable wall of the Mace Store looks particularly bad and should receive attention as a matter of priority. Quite a substantial number of shops and pubs and other commercial premises along Elphin street and Bridge street are in need of attention in some respect either repairs, painting or plastic signage. The church and school both look very well. Perhaps a co - ordinated colour scheme could be adopted for properties in the town centre, this might encourage property owners to paint their properties. The walls forming the entrance to the school located beside the Heritage Centre need to be rewhitewashed. It is good to note the location of the Heritage Centre in such an attractive old ecclesiastical building. The Brogan Tractor property would look better if painted and tyres and other equipment stored out of public view. The presentation of the National Irish Bank is superb.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The small green island marking the entrance from the Longford road could be further landscaped. The grassed area here was overgrown during adjudication. The cobblelock roundabout looks well with its design; however, the soft area needs to be landscaped. It is assumed that this will be accomplished in the near future. Young trees lining the entrance to Strokestown Park House are maturing well and planting at their base is most attractive. The landscaped area on the Roscommon Road was almost obscured by the long grass; this is a pity as a lot work must have gone into developing this attractive feature. The small riverside park featuring the grotto is a fine development and offers a quiet resting place.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There is no mention of a wildlife project being undertaken, the committee might organise a wildlife survey to establish exactly what wildlife is in the town and its immediate environs. Another approach might be to feature seasonal displays of local wildflowers along approach roads. Approach roads will have to be carefully managed to accomplish this project.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Although generally speaking litter control was quite good around the town, a lot of litter was trapped behind the railings marking the entrance to Strokestown Park House which is a pity given its importance.

## **TIDINESS**

The old garage and its surrounds located across from the Walsh Mushrooms Ltd. premises is a problem under this heading. Hopefully the new owners of this property and other properties such as Lisryan Court will present them to a high standard in the near future. Don't forget to have building materials removed when construction work has ceased, particularly the large mounds located near the bottle banks. What appears to be an old fridge was noted in the carparking area located across from the Brogan Tractor property; hopefully this is a very temporary aberration.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The residential development at the junction of the Drumsna road is beautifully presented in respect of its green verges. A substantial number of residential properties on the entrance from the Boyle road need attention to their boundary walls and some to their facades also. Residential properties on the Roscommon entrance to the town are beautifully presented.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The Boyle road is beautifully presented in respect of its roadside edges. A Telecom Eireann service pole near the 'Mace' store looks bad in respect of its wirescape. The absence of ESB wirescape along the main street and the very attractive lampstandards are a very pleasant feature of Strokestown. New stretches of footpath in the town centre are a pleasing development. It is fascinating to read in your questionnaire about the old wall of cut stone which has been revealed by work activities during recent roadworks.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression of Strokestown is quite favourable and no doubt will be stronger even next year when the work in progress has been completed and properties are painted. Thank you for your continued participation in the competition.