

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosses Point** Ref: **1100**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **262**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	36	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	26	27
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	31
TOTAL MARK	450	255	262

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Rosses Point benefits enormously in appearance and charm from its somewhat haphazard original streetscape and of course from its maritime situation and ethos immortalised in the work of Jack B Yeats. Clearly a balance must be kept between this and necessary modern developments. It is interesting to learn that you have a new Development Association and one wonders – as an uninformed though concerned outsider – if you may not be duplicating some of your activities. It is interesting to read of ‘plans’ to do this or that, or ‘we await...’ but marks can only be allocated on what has been achieved, and more specifically on what has been achieved since last year – of which, indeed, there is a considerable amount. You would do well by instituting a 3- or 5-Year Action Plan covering all proposed improvements with a time-scale for the completion of each. It is encouraging to read of your involvement with school children (though, under SWRM below, this appears to be insufficient) and with groups such as Clean Coasts and An Taisce. Thank you for your helpful map.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

As mentioned above, the almost entirely one-sided Main Street has great charm; several repainted premises were noted and one in progress. There is ‘picturesque untidiness’ and ‘pure untidiness’ in the streetscape of any town and here the latter is provided by ugly poles and wires – an approach should be made to the County Council who have already provided elegant lamp standards on the prom: something on a smaller scale is needed on the street. Realt na Mara national school is well looked after; the plain Roman Catholic church has a very charming rural feel. The Lifeboat Station and its surroundings are beautifully kept up. When the management is next considering improvements, perhaps the somewhat sombre Yeats Country hotel would repaint in a more alluring colour. The Church of Ireland church is very well presented. The blue and white painted pumps provide eye-catching exclamation marks.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

There is an enormous amount of sheer hard maintenance work carried out successfully on the open spaces, particularly the public lawns and plantings, for which congratulations. Aside from that there are some spaces of shrubbery between the main street and the prom that seem to have been neglected. Excellent planting was noted in stone-bordered beds and the planted boats definitely raise the tone. There are many handsome troughs and tubs but in some places the containers are more prominent than their contents, the plants chosen being so low-growing: ask your local garden centre what higher growing plants will flourish in containers and also survive the sea breeze. The playground is very well kept.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fíadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

Well done in your efforts to institute a Wild Life garden and to the Elsinore Club in their participation – the site was noted near the Post Office and the results will be looked forward to next year. The oak bench 'made the old way' is appropriate to this kind of initiative. Are the bird boxes occupied and if so are you keeping a note of species accommodated? First class illustrated interpretative signage was seen at highly suitable points. Improvements at the natural outdoor swimming pool were noted. The scenic walk was walked and the natural plant life appreciated. One of the glories of Rosses Point is its wonderful Blue Flag beach. You mention that coastal erosion is 'a worry'; also, do you have anxieties about the dune system? It is well that you share the experience of the Clean Coast movement. In some cases, such as at Enniscrone, the County Council has been executively and knowledgeably involved.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

Clothes and bottle banks were seen in the village to be accessible and clean; well done for assisting the Hospice. Well done too for using most of the local composting for your plantings. No green flag was seen at the school so it was with a real sense of elation that we read that 'six green flags' have been awarded! You are certainly doing yourselves out of additional marking by failing to give us a description of the six projects for which these awards have been made. In most centres now the impetus under this important heading comes from the local schools – clearly the same applies here. Heartiest congratulations to the pupils, the teachers and the parents.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is a pity to see Elsinore, with its famous commercial and literary associations, in such a state and we hope the conservation plan will succeed. Otherwise, dereliction is not a prominent feature of Rosses Point as in some centres. The poles and wires have already been mentioned in relation to streetscape. You have done very well, along with the County Council, in weed control. The area of the Golf Club is particularly tidy. Congratulations to your volunteers who regularly pick up litter and who take part in the National Spring Clean. Litter was not at all noticeable on the date of the visit. Your efforts are hugely appreciated.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

The traditional houses and business premises of the older part of the village are what give Rosses Point its particular charm (apart from the wonderful location). Smart cottages were admired at Black Rock View, but in a residential area it is the householders who must keep their frontages weed-free and that was not entirely the case here. Numerous well presented residences were seen above the village with escalonia, fuschia, laurel and other hedgings, including a charming crescent of bungalows. Ros Bedlan is splendidly situated, with superb front gardens: if this adjudicator were to award a prize this would surely be it. The Blenwicks, with its first class lamp standards, would certainly be a runner-up; the committee could well take a lesson in container-planting from one of the residents.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The whole route from Sligo is anticipatory – the fine road, the foliage, the gardens of pleasant homes. Surfacing is good – very good in some places – and road markings comparatively good. The array of flags is unusual and gives a great sense of celebration on arrival. Some resurfacing had been successfully carried out on the prom. The scenic walk appeared to have been well strimmed. First class wooden fencing was seen in a number of places. Well kept and well marked car parks were noted above the strand, at the school, and at the Golf Club and Hotel.

Concluding Remarks: