

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHVILLY**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21
Landscaping	40	33
The Built Environment	40	33
Litter Control	40	33
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	300	240

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The committee would appear to have a clear objective in mind and an equal determination to achieve these goals. You are to be commended for your employment of the expertise of a consultant and for your ongoing communications with the local statutory bodies. Both decisions have paid off and will continue to do so in the coming years. Best wishes in the upcoming Entente Florale Competition!

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Establish contact with local environmental groups to get expert advice on the natural habitats and species of animal, bird, fish and wild flowers within your catchment area. The ducks in the river add great life and interest. Care should be taken to ensure that wildlife in hedgerows (e.g. birds nests wild flowers, etc.) is not harmed when preparing the presentation of approach roads.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping features of the town had obviously had a lot of attention but had yet to realise their full potential on Adjudication Day- no doubt they will look magnificent for the Entente Florale! Of particular note was the carefully manicured village green to the front of the Kevin Barry Memorial. The stone feature steps at the pump were beautifully finished if a little austere at the moment as were the railed areas to the front of St. Patricks Church. Time (and the future blooming of the rose beds in the case of the former) should soften up the overall impression. The concept of the French Garden is an interesting one and this assessor looks forward to seeing its future progress. The timber tubs dotted around the town should be very attractive when in full bloom. As should the trellis by the football pitch - the clematis to the tennis courts next door is coming along nicely. The feature of wild daisies on the main Baltinglass Road looked very simple and attractive.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the commercial premises and public buildings in the town looked well cared for. The Credit Union was freshly painted as was the school, the grotto opposite Kevin Barry Road and Health Centre. There was as yet no sign on the Post Office on Adjudication Day. The hall was freshly painted but the window grilles had yet to be tackled. The Garda Station was freshly painted and the school looked quite fresh. Some commercial premises needed attention such as Mace and Malloys both of which should be freshened up before next years competition. Try to avoid the all too common mistake of having a profusion of stickers in shop windows as this gives a very cluttered appearance. Both St. Marys neo-gothic granite church with its well maintained landscaped grounds of yew trees and boundary hedge and the graveyard with its stone wall looked very well. The Watermill Restaurant should be freshened - there is some algae growth to the walls. Weeds were evident at the entrance. However, the garden area to rear is nicely landscaped and the ducks in the water create a lively atmosphere. The prospect of having the water wheel reinstated is an exciting one. Be sure not to forget outbuildings e.g. that in stone on Kiltegan Road requires its metal roof painted and to be de-mossed.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category was very good - virtually none was visible. Some papers were to be seen on the street across from the graveyard and in the river. There was a profusion of litter bins all over the town.

TIDINESS

The town looked generally neat on Adjudication Day; however one or two problem areas created a less than perfect appearance. Yard areas containing large quantities of farm machinery should be screened from public view, as they give the town a cluttered appearance. Also the fish and chip van to the front of

the graveyard looks quite untidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Both the housing estates and individual houses estates looked well - Pairc Naomh Padraic in particular with its red seating. The cut stone buildings to Phelan Street looked very attractive with their ivy clad walls and colourful floral displays. Michael Collins Park with its grass bank and new trees looked well-maintained without being over-kept. The broken metal seat and tilted road sign were unfortunate - the timber fence should be freshened for next year's competition. The silver birches in Ardan Ui Chuilin were also admired as was a magnificent garden near the church with its displays of conifers, purple lilac & bluebells, just enough detail, not too ornate.

ROADS, STREETS & BACK AREAS

On the Hacketstown Road the verges and hedgerows have been cut back - care should be taken not to destroy any wildlife such as nesting birds, wild flowers etc. The feature flowerbeds of white daisies by the road signs is very successful. Road signage generally was quite fresh although some needed attention. The adjudicator was pleased to note the retention of the traditional phone box, although the stained perspex is not as attractive as the original glass and the graffiti scratched into it inside and out was very unattractive. Street furniture such as the brazier style litter bins and red seating looked very cheerful particularly that on the most attractive Baltinglass Road with its new trees and bridge over the River Slaney.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is obvious that the residents of Rathvilly care about their town. This is evidenced from all effort put into the presentation of the town itself and the carefully considered report submitted in which you have noted both the positive and negative aspects of the town. Care should be taken not to create too severe an atmosphere in this picturesque town with its church spire peeking up amongst the houses nestling within the rolling landscape .

SECOND ADJUDICATION

For a first-time visitor to this village it was a delightful experience; a riot of flowers and admirably maintained greenery; a real sense of place in the centre; and an army of strimmers, mowers and sign-painters dispersed through the village. The spread-out nature of the village makes exceptional demands on energy, but has not daunted the community council. So many aspects are worthy of additional comment, the housing estates, mountain ash trees laden with berries, perhaps particularly the beautiful floral display in the school grounds, and the joy of seeing the waterwheel in motion. This is a splendid community effort all round, putting Rathvilly back at the highest level in the competition.