

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RUAN**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13
Landscaping	40	20
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	159

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ruan hasn't featured as prominently as it should in the competition. This is rather surprising because there seems to be a good local community effort. The entry form was very informative; it gave a good insight to the type of interaction that was taking place between the committee, all sections of the community, the Local Authority and other agencies. I have been advocating the 3 year work programme to other centres and in Ruan's case I think it would be most beneficial. What is needed is a programme with targets set out in bullet point form with a timescale and deadlines. The committee is quite big for the size of the village and should have enough influence to mobilise support from within the community. Issues like FAS schemes not being available at the appropriate time are issues which as you rightly pointed out are often outside the control of committees, but it is important to forge good links with all the agencies and try to get them over to your way of thinking.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The planting of berried trees is to be commended; it is a start in the interest of nature conservation and the encouragement of wildlife in your area. The school should be involved in a project that would identify all the wildlife habitats around Ruan and see what type of animals and birds they attract. Guidance should be sought from a local environment specialist.

LANDSCAPING

The tree and hedgegrow planting on the Dromore Road is very effective as is the flower planting strategically placed around the village. Individual premises have contributed enormously also by providing their own flower tubs and baskets and boundary beds. The colour provided by the flower beds in front of Mort Kellys premises was beautiful and eye-catching as you entered the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most buildings in the village and its environs are well presented and indeed in some cases look extremely attractive. The Church, its grounds and the old graveyard are kept in top condition; the people who are involved in the upkeep of community premises such as these deserve great praise as usually it involves many hours of voluntary labour. The same applies to those who are responsible for the upkeep of the school which was in top condition. The previously mentioned Mort Kellys, The Dalcassian Shop, Bar, and Service Station (even though there was a bit of damage done to the surrounds near the petrol pumps) and Purcells Lounge Bar deserve mention for their endeavours. Individual private residences were also maintained to a high standard most notably some on the Ennis Road approach. There were a number of buildings that need attention, some of the houses on the Corofin Road need painting and there is a very derelict building near Purcells which is a bit of an eyesore. The village pump is an integral part of the village. Give it priority treatment.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was free of litter on the day of adjudication, but it was noticeable that there were very few litter bins in and around the village. Strategically placed bins are an incentive to good litter control. Keep up the motivation of locals to take responsibility for their litter.

TIDINESS

The overall impression created by Ruan was generally good with the exception of a few areas that need attention. For instance the previously alluded to derelict house near Purcells has a derelict site near it. There was a truck trailer with pallets untidily scattered on the Tubber Rd as well as some derelict cars near the Rural Housing Estate. The Ennis Road was in excellent condition with well kept frontages.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of houses was quite good, well maintained with boundary fences well presented. The afore-mentioned Ennis Road approach has a number of impressive houses in terms of presentation, nicely painted with well maintained boundary fences. This standard has been duplicated by other house owners in the village and the rest of the environs. Some of the houses in the Rural Housing Scheme need a bit of vibrancy by way of colour; bear it in mind for next year; the same applies to some of the Council Houses as well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Ennis approach road is very impressive, grass margins are cut back and hedgerows are trimmed accordingly and it has a number of features that make it attractive. The Dysart Road is not the most attractive of entrances, grass margins and hedgerows were cut back and trimmed on part of the road while on the other they were too untidy. As previously mentioned both schemes of houses need a bit of a lift and also there are what could be termed as unsightliness : derelict cars and a couple of untidy sites. Corofin Road was reasonable as was the Dromore /Tubber Road. Be vigilant about grass margins and hedgerows. It is easy to let them get out of hand.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ruan will make strides in the competition if the level of commitment being shown at present is maintained. The committee has responded very positively in their submission for this year, duty to address sensitive issues has not been shirked and this is a good thing. As was stated in the introductory section try to formulate an achievable work plan and stick by it. More of the same and the village will move up the rankings and in the process of doing that all sections of the community will see what can be done with concerted effort.