

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RAPHOE**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	166

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thanks to the Raphoe Committee for the helpful, detailed report on what has been undertaken in the past year. Perhaps a better map as has been supplied in previous years would be helpful. It is very useful to an adjudicator to have identified the particular planting etc. that might have undertaken by the committee in any given year. That said, Raphoe has improved again this year and for that you are to be congratulated. The promise of a plan in last year's application does not seem to have been followed through; it would be the recommendation of your adjudicator that such a plan be put in place, endorsed by all of the community and thereby giving a very useful agenda for the work that needs to be done to progress further in the competition.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This new category offers particular opportunity to Raphoe and it was good to see that you were examining the potential within it already. Locate an area for such a wildlife walk, put sign posting on it, do not over prettify it but rather leave it eco - friendly and you will garner extra valuable marks within this category.

LANDSCAPING

Again many nice areas were noted under this category. On the Sligo approach road the Welcome to Raphoe sign and the nice flower beds at the Shell Garage, the Department of the Agriculture building looking well with its grounds very smartly done. Excellent treeplanting at the Raphoe and Prior Comprehensive, for instance and hanging baskets throughout the town. A nice flower bed was noted on William Street and the flower boxes at Victor Holmes Shop etc. It is heartening that under this category, you continue to do well.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Your clear determination to feature stone to your improvements within the town reflects the total environment of your town and that is to be commended. The many fine public buildings deriving from your history are appreciated by your community and it is good to see them so well maintained. It is this image of a substantial Ulster Plantation town that you should be building on. It will require further improvement of the streetscapes, the removal of dereliction etc. but your adjudicator feels certain that you are sensitive to all of this.

LITTER CONTROL

Generally litter was under firm control on the day of adjudication and for that you are to be congratulated. There was some residual litter noted, especially on the approach roads but this was not a major problem. Nonetheless, vigilance is the word here and must be kept up.

TIDINESS

Tidiness is the sum of many things, landscaping, built environment, litter control and an overall air of smartness. Regrettably, Raphoe's well identified problems of dereliction in certain areas together with elements such as the van etc. detract from what otherwise could be a higher marking category.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The spirit of the residents throughout the town is very high. There is a nice flower bed noted in Saint Eunans Terrace, hanging baskets throughout the town and again Irish Street and McBride Street were looking well this year. It is this spirit that can be taken further if you develop a plan.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads noted in this report were well kept and nice new stone walls were noted on the Lifford Road although the Castlefin approach still has unsightly corrugated roofing detracting from it. The Sligo approach road was nicely trimmed and the welcome signs are commented on yet again. The Diamond itself undoubtedly needs resurfacing but it would appear to be in hand.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Raphoe continues to mark well in the competition and if that plan is put in place can progress much further. Keep up the good work, you are doing well.