

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **RATHANGAN**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 27-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	32
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>204</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for completed entry form, map and photographs together with detailed information. Congratulations to the Fishing Club in their development. You have a very attractive village and is one that the adjudicators enjoyed adjudicating. The canal and river are very attractive features and provide important wildlife amenities. It was nice to see a map on display in the town. There is very good developmental approach.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The presence of the canal and the River Greise provide important wildlife habitats which appear to be maximised in the town. It is nice to see the meadow area coming on well. It is good to note that nature trail walks were incorporated into the map seen at William Wallards. There is potential for more nature conservation; a good starting point would be to identify wildlife habitats in your catchment area and see what type of birds, animals and plants etc. these attract. You could invite local environmental experts and groups to advise you and provide you with specialist information you require.

### LANDSCAPING

Overall, an excellent presentation in Rathangan this year. Congratulations on the effort here, it is very apparent that it is a very attractive town, beautifully presented. Spencers Bridge and the Canal Locks were beautifully presented with neatly cut grass, flower beds etc. The Canal Harbour area was tidy, with new picnic area noted nearby. The W. Byrne Monument was again well presented this year, as was the pathway down to the river by the bridge. The meadow area is an important area of the town and is something that you should encourage as much as possible. The triangle/pump in the centre of the town was well presented and looking very well, well done. A great presentation was also noted at the green at the Cake Shop with good use of flowers at the junction. The adjudicators were also very impressed with the presentation of both the Maura Lafferty Memorial and the grassed area to the rear of it as well as along by the stream as well. Planting was noted at the bend by the Quaker cemetery and the cemetery itself would benefit from attention. The tree lined area opposite the Church is very attractive, its appearance is heightened by the arched bridge which is a very nice feature over the stream. Tree planting was noted on New Street - this really will pay dividends in years to come; well done in this regard. The area opposite the entrance to the caravan park is one that needed attention. Flower tubs would brighten up premises and in this regard you might look at options for the Church of Ireland, Catholic Church and the Credit Union area. The Rath is another long term project that could be developed as well.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Some well presented buildings were noted at time of adjudication, including D.T. Dillons; the Bridge Bar; ORourkes and the Burrow; Fulhams. The schools were very well presented, congratulations, particularly, the school grounds next to Merrimack Transformers. Merrimack Transformers also had an excellent presentation. Good use of flowers were noted in several premises, for example, the Post Office. The Health Centre was relatively tidy with nice stone wall noted adjacent to it. Conlans Car Sales was also well presented. There is still room for improvement here - A. Hackett; Golden Valley and the Cake Shop all had plastic signage and should be encouraged to change it. Tom Maloneys should be painted up. Conlans Truck premises needs to be improved; try to paint the grey gate and perhaps you might consider screening off through tree planting, or some other means to avoid the unsightly appearance. Planting was noted at the Tennis Court, well done. Try to improve or remove the Steam Car Wash sign at the Jet Station. The Parish Welfare Centre is slightly improved with good presentation noted opposite.

### LITTER CONTROL

Overall, litter control management was very good this year in Rathangan, congratulations. It wasn't really

noted as being a problem anywhere, apart from the GAA grounds. It was nice to see a number of new litter bins and litter adopt a spot scheme seems to be working well. Overall, a good performance here.

#### TIDINESS

Rathangan was very neat and tidy this year throughout and was a pleasure to adjudicate. The approach from Spensors Bridge was particularly well presented. It was very neat and tidy at the canal bridge and the bridge by the river. A nice mural of swans was noted coming in towards the square. Try to clean up the finger post signs by the green near the Cake Shop and it would be nice if the Main Street could be resurfaced also.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of presentation of residential areas was particularly high again this year. Spensors Court is a very attractive residential park, well done. The park near the Rath is also an excellent presentation. Good residential effort was also noted on the Main Street - at Ard Mhuire a very good presentation was noted on both sides - on one side there was a very attractive open space with good use of flowers (EHB side) and on the other side the trees are coming on well, a very attractive stone wall was under development and try to consider more flowers here. At St. Patricks Park, try to resurface the footpath and replace the fencing. The area was generally litter free but small amounts of graffiti were noted. Plant more trees, perhaps at the rear green area - some trees were noted. Good individual efforts were noted in this park, for example, 658, 655, 656 together with the blue and white house to name but a few. Overall, a good performance under this category.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Monasterevin, there was an excellent presentation, particularly by Spensors Bridge with the bank of the canal locks neatly cut, very attractive planting and trees noted on the right hand side. Overall, a very neat and tidy approach. On the approach road from Kildare, grass verges were okay, flower beds were noted and the area was neat and tidy. The pump was freshly painted, helped by good individual effort with several residential premises. By the 30MPH sign, very attractive stone walls were noted; unfortunately, small sprinklings of litter were evident here. The approach roads towards the Cake Shop and by the Rath were also very well presented, very neat and tidy with trees and planting noted, well done. Overall, a good performance helped by the tidiness in the Main Streets.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicators were very impressed with the presentation of Rathangan this year. Congratulations to all involved. The adjudicators look forward to the submission of the five year plan - try to encourage some more innovative projects in this, the adjudicators note that some of the projects that you are trying to develop. Try to work towards improving the Quaker Burial Ground; providing new footpaths and kerbing where needed, e.g. St. Patricks Park and further promotion of wildlife areas. Good luck for 1997.