

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHKEALE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	32
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	196

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

From your detailed response to the questionnaire you would appear to have a good working relationship with the relevant local statutory bodies. For next year's competition it is important to have formulated a detailed professional three or five year plan of action for your town in order to give yourselves a positive objective for resolving the problem areas within the community.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wild daisies to the generally rather overgrown riverbank were admired. Perhaps the best approach to this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project-they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was very high indeed, and this is obviously something at which you excel. The window boxes filled with petunias and geraniums opposite the Church of Ireland were admired. The grotto looked quite magnificent with its freshly painted chain link fence and silver painted bollards, two raised beds filled with roses and marigolds either side and an abundance of planting as a backdrop. The graveyard with daisies to the boundary wall looked magnificent. As did the truly marvellous landscaping at the roundabout.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the public and commercial buildings of the town generally looked very well on Adjudication Day, although some could be improved upon. The Church of Ireland was in good order, although the railings could be freshened up before next year. As could the Fire Station. National School and Community Centre. The Augustinian Abbey, and stone surrounding wall looked well. The library was reasonably fresh with a planted bed to the front. The Palatine museum building looked well, although the weeds to the kerbside outside looked quite unsightly. The use of out of scale inappropriate plastic signage and over use of advertising stickers in windows should be discouraged. Curved canopies should be replaced with more traditional fabric awnings. E.Bank's is an attractive although neglected shop front which would be well worth restoration. As would Noonan's and the Art Deco cinema building. Burn's forecourt area was quite bare-looking, with some derelict buildings to the rear. Both bank buildings were well presented, with colourful window boxes. The raised planted beds to the front and opposite White's Foodstore looked very well with their colourful planting. Although the Golden Vale Marts was quite fresh, the yard area was quite weedy. Sean Foley's facade with the projecting statue looked quite charming. Sean O'Braonans looked quite flaky on the day.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on Adjudication Day was not as good as it could have been. Some litter was noted to the river, and by the roundabout. Quite a lot was apparent along Main Street, particularly outside White's Foodstore, the menswear shop and near Sean Hennessy's.

TIDINESS

The standard in this category was quite inconsistent, as on first impressions the town appeared quite neat and tidy, but on closer inspection there were some problem areas. The two car parks on Main Street appeared quite neat in their appearance. The laneway opposite Sean O'Braonan's was quite weedy, as were of the road off the dual carriageway. There was a weedy yard area further along from Golden Vale

which looked unfortunate, as was the untidy yard area with building materials near the river. The perspex telephone boxes were very badly stained. The area to the rear of the Palatine Museum looked unfortunate, Limerick County Council sewerage treatment plant and the industrial estate. The Industrial Estate itself was well presented. Although the new trees planted behind the timber rail fence, are coming along nicely, the area looked quite neglected.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was good. However, the derelict cottages on Main Street near the housing estate looked quite sad. The boundary walls to the housing estate looked quite grubby, and the green space had been cut back, but looked quite littered. The cottage with roses and aubretia near the grotto on the Killarney road was admired. As were the houses by the riverside with the magnificent gardens. The two unusual three storey houses with the glass canopies looked well, although that beside the ICS Building Society was in bad order. Two gardens worthy of special mention were the doctor's and that with roses opposite the library, although the boundary wall to the latter could be freshened up. Court Villas were very fresh and most attractive with a stone boundary wall. The timber rail fence of the housing estate opposite the Fire Station had been freshly painted, and the houses had been reasonably well presented. A nearby house with an abundance of hanging baskets looked magnificent.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was quite good. However, there was quite a lot of weeding necessary to the base of the stone walls to either side of the road off the Dual Carriageway. The beautiful stone walls on the Killarney road, were admired, although the signage was rather grubby.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The busy town of Rathkeale looked very well on the day, but as you are well aware there are problem areas in the town which must be tackled, if you are to make further progress in the competition. Judging from your work so far, you obviously have the enthusiasm to do so.