

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **RATHOATH**  
County : **MEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>169</b>

## **Adjudicator's Comments**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The adjudicator would like to firstly welcome Ratoath to the competition and to wish you well. Your Committee has been very active over the last couple of months and evidence of this can be seen in the village. As part of the new format for the competition you will be required to submit a 3/5 year work programme/plan for next year. The plan should set out clearly your objectives for each year. Do not adopt unrealistic objectives, a limited number of targets which are achievable each year is far more likely to yield results.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There is potential for greater nature conservation in and around Ratoath. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and fish these attract. Why not invite your local environmental experts and groups to get involved to advise you and provide you with the specialist information you will require. Alternatively you may even like to involve the school children on the project. The riverside walk and amenity area will definitely be an addition to the natural amenities of the area.

### **LANDSCAPING**

As mentioned earlier the riverside walk area is progressing very well and the adjudicators look forward to seeing the finished product next year. The bank areas on the approach from the national school have been landscaped and are coming on nicely. The grotto had a lovely presentation of colourful flowers. Improvements could be made in the provision of some floral tubs around the village and some tree planting.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The majority of the business premises had put in the effort in the presentation of their premises. Ryans Pub and Rorys Pub had a nice selection of hanging baskets as did Bradys Burmah Garage. The Post Office was neat and tidy as were the grounds of the Catholic Church and Augustinian Convent. The village centre was generally clean and tidy; however the car park took away from the overall appearance. Businesses should be encouraged more to enhance the appearance of their premises; a competition for the best shop front could be undertaken to encourage them.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control in general was quite good on the day of inspection with litter bins well located and maintained. Shop keepers should be encouraged to monitor their front areas for litter.

### **TIDINESS**

Ratoath is a village which is growing at a very quick rate. For a village that has so much construction going on the village appeared relatively tidy. Weed control was a problem on the approach road from the national school and in and around the school grounds. It was noted that works are ongoing on the grounds of the grave yard.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The majority of the housing estates in and around Ratoath were very well presented. There are quite a lot of new estates and the contractors should be commended for the excellent finish in relation to landscaping of these estates. The housing estate opposite the grave yard was very well presented but lacked a name plate. Estates such as Park View, Moatlands and Meadow Bank were all well presented. Clonkeen and Fairyhouse estates were also neatly presented and residents should be commended for all

their work.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In general the approach roads were neat and tidy. It is important that particular attention be given to this area as first impressions are important. Attention should be given to grass verges, hedge rows and presentation of approach signs. This is an area where improvements can be made but it requires a lot of work and attention. As mentioned earlier the car park area of the village centre was in need of attention and generally being cleaned up.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ratoath has a lot of potential in the competition. You should concentrate on putting together you plan and involving all of the new residential associations. Good luck and well done.