

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHCABBIN**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	160

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The application form submitted did not give much indication of a planned approach; there was no mention of interaction with other sections of the community. I would suggest that the committee put together a 3 year work programme which would have targets to aim at. The absence of a map was a bit of a handicap in identifying places.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Again there was no reference to any future plans as regards Wildlife and Natural Amenities . There are a number of areas within the village that could be earmarked as possible starting points for a nature type project. Seek out the help of a local nature expert and also involve the school in, for instance, identifying what species of birds and wild animals frequent the immediate surrounds.

LANDSCAPING

Rathcabbin is a nice little village a little off the main road network; unfortunately it does not project itself enough. The village could benefit from a planned landscaping programme which would combine practicality in terms of tree planting and also would provide colour on a year round basis by means of shrubs and flowers. The existing shrub beds need to be revitalised and more colour provided.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings in the village were quite well maintained as with many places it also had its share of dereliction. The Church and the Parochial House again were very well presented with a nice shrub bed in front. The National School is once again well presented and clean. Some of the business premises deserve mention for their efforts to make the village more vibrant notably Bourkes Shop and The Esso Station.

A number of private residences are very attractive. `Siobhans Cottage ,the house prior to it and the farmhouse directly opposite the community hall are trying to give good example. Unfortunately Rathcabbin has a number of premises that are very untidy. The Health Centre and Post Office are in a poor state as regards presentation . It does not take much effort to have a little pride in ones place. That effort would help your village enormously. The community hall was reasonably well presented.

LITTER CONTROL

There was litter on the main street and on the road up from the church. Again it's a question of being vigilant and having regular clean ups.

TIDINESS

The village could have been a good deal tidier and the weed control left a lot to be desired. For instance things like the flower tub near the pump needed to be painted and filled with flowers. The area around the Post Office was very untidy and there wasn't much improvement at the site referred to in last year's report. Greater effort will have to be made in this category.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most private residences were well maintained some with nice gardens and boundary walls of good standard. The houses on the outskirts of the village on the Church Road were also reasonable except for a few that were untidy and badly maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There was little improvement in the condition of approach roads since last year. I don't want to be negative just for the sake of it I think the village is very nice and has far greater potential than is at present realised. Approach roads are the first points of contact that any visitor will have with any village. When you have a building like the Health Centre ,above all places, in the condition it is in as an introduction to the village then you are starting with a negative impression. Surely the Health Board could be approached to at least have the place painted and make it a bit more inviting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rathcabbin is basically a very nice little village with far more potential than it is actually achieving. I am also aware that no matter how committed any tidy towns committee may be if it does not get the support of the rest of the community it is fighting against the odds. It is hard for people on committees to be focused at all times; after all these committees are only voluntary. I would urge people to keep up the effort, set out a work programme that can be achieved; simple objectives are always the best, and try and make progress gradually. Look to next year in a more positive frame of mind, try to instil teamwork in the community and I am certain the results will come.