

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13
Landscaping	40	17
The Built Environment	40	18
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20
General Impression	10	4
TOTAL MARK	300	142

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Rearcross committee have put together a comprehensive plan for the future development of the village which will accentuate the good points and address issues that are problematic. This is a very positive initiative. The committee is small but it must have a good mix of people who are intent on ensuring that Rearcross improves its performance in Tidy Towns. I would encourage the committee to make sure that every strata of the community has a say by way of a sub committee structure. The interaction with the County Council and agencies such as FAS and Shannon Development is to be welcomed as it will establish links that will bring practical benefit to the area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Good to see the initiative in relation to the picnic/wildlife area being undertaken and indeed being sponsored by Rural Renewal of Ireland. The area opposite the Rising Sun and in that immediate little valley is one a number of locations that would be suitable for such a project. (I presume that is the area marked on the map). Involve the local school as the pupils will feel they are being involved in something that will bring improvement to their village.

LANDSCAPING

More effort should be put into shrub/tree/flower planting. Whilst there are some fine individual examples, the village and its surrounds lack that look that comes with good landscaping. The proposed planting in front of the Community Hall and at the area adjacent to the Church is to be welcomed. Try to ensure that there is a planned approach to landscaping over a three year period .

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Again under this particular category there are positive things happening. `Kennedys` premises for instance has been upgraded and looks well. The Shannon Development Enterprise Unit and the surrounding area have been refurbished. The new service station being built at the Newport end of the village will be a big addition when in operation. The `Rising Sun` could be revitalised by way of painting as it is a nice and unique building. The scheme of houses for the elderly looked in excellent condition nicely painted with boundary walls and fences well maintained. The Church, School and Community Hall were also well kept without being anything out of the ordinary. Rearcross is a pleasant village and has a number of attractive and unique buildings, but one feels that it could benefit from a village renewal programme which would bring out its best features and expose them to visitors. For instance very few people passing through Rearcross are aware of the history of the Church which is one of only two of its kind remaining in the country.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was free of litter on adjudication day - credit to the litter control teams for their work. The committee should seek to have a number of free-standing bins provided as the present ones are a bit grubby.

TIDINESS

The overall tidiness could be slightly improved upon. The area across from Kennedys needs to be cut back and the carpark area is presently shabby (but no doubt will be transformed when the amenity project is developed). There was too much flyposting on the day - try to avoid this as most people that put them up forget to take them down.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The presentation of houses in the village, it has no estate per se, is of a high standard. Boundary walls

and fences are kept in good condition. The houses for the elderly are very well maintained as are the houses built and being built around the enterprise area. Keep up the good work and full marks to the committee for the positive encouragement given.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The condition of the approach roads varied and in general require attention. The Cappamore/ Doon Road needs cutting back, while the stonewall when built will be an attractive feature and will improve its appearance. The Thurles Road is presentable except for the area across from Kennedys. The Newport Road was also presentable, having a number of well-kept houses. The Co Op Stores deserve mention for the tidiness of their premises. There is an old derelict building at the end of the village on this road, maybe the owner could be approached to upgrade it.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rearcross has been achieving average markings in the competition over a number of years, and it has to be said that it is not doing itself justice. It is a lovely village situated in the midst of the Sliabh Felim Mountains and has very good potential to do far better. The outlining of plans and the identifying of problems in this years submission is to be lauded. There is good interaction between the committee, community and statutory bodies and no doubt the results will follow .
Keep up this excellent approach.