

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RAHARNEY**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	165

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The progress that Raharney is making in the competition is a good indication of your overall approach to improving the village. You obviously have wide-spread co-operation from the Community and appear to be working well with the Local Authority, FAS, etc. However if you have not already done so you should consider preparing an overall Development Plan for the village which could be implemented over a number of years. You are now reaching a standard where a planned approach is all the more important and where attention to detail will be increasingly required.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

In common with most other centres up to now little consideration has been given to this heading. Raharney is fortunate in having an attractive river, the Deel, running through the village which as well as providing a valuable amenity is also an important wildlife habitat for a wide variety of animals and plants. Mature trees, hedgerows and gardens are other important habitats. You should seek advice on how these various resources can be further enhanced in the interest of wildlife preservation.

LANDSCAPING

The grotto area is maintained to a very high standard with its closely cut grass, rose bed and stone boundary. The grassed area opposite McHughs at the Ballivor junction looks well but needs more regular grass cutting to be shown off to best advantage. The quality of the grassed areas in front of the adjoining houses is the standard that you should aim for. The gate at the Estate entrance is another fine feature with its cut stone piers and magnificently painted wrought iron railing. The new stone work at the amenity area on the river bank on opposite side of road to grotto is interesting and will compliment the amenity area.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings throughout the Village are generally well presented. The Church and its grounds are satisfactory as is the school. The commercial properties are also of a good standard. Most are brightly painted and several have flower tubs, shrubberies, etc.

LITTER CONTROL

There appears to be some slippage in litter control since last year. A light scattering of litter was noted particularly in wind-trap or gap areas and litter while not a problem, will need to be worked at on an on-going basis. The provision of litter bins in suitable locations should be considered. A number of litter bins need to be painted, e.g. at the school.

TIDINESS

In spite of some apparent slippage of litter control the village has a tidy appearance and this is brought about by the well presented buildings, painted boundary walls, footpaths in good condition, etc.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are very many well presented private houses and gardens throughout the village. The quality of several of the boundary walls and fences are a good feature, for example the attractive white railings in front of house up from Weirs. Many private houses also maintain their gravelled and grassed boundary areas to a high standard. However, more attention needs to be paid to the unsightly long grass which appears over the boundary wall at the house on opposite side of road to Church. Back areas in this vicinity would be improved by screening. More regular cutting of the large grassed area in front of the Local Authority houses on the Killucan road would improve the quality of presentation. The trees in this

location are poor specimens and a number of gaps need to be filled, you should consider replanting with better quality trees. In general proper staking is important to protect the trees and enable them to become established - it can also be a decorative feature. There are several large parking areas particularly in the vicinity of the school, and adjoining the Granite that could be lifted with some well planted large flower tubs.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The condition of the approach roads remain one of the weaker areas of the Village. Several lengthy grass verges on approach roads need to be cut and should be done so on a regular basis. A number of poles need to be painted, e.g. in the landscaped triangular area on opposite side of road to McHugh's.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The appearance of the village is improving steadily. However there are still a number of weak areas that require attention, e.g. approach roads and maintenance of grassed areas, etc.