

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHWIRE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	160

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The standard that Rathwire has reached in the competition over many years demonstrates that you have adopted a practical approach to the development of the village. The quality of presentation has required a substantial commitment from the community as well as significant inputs from FAS and the Local Authority. However, if you wish to progress further in the competition, which you most certainly can, you need to step up your efforts and adopt a more planned approach. The adjudicator notes from your entry form that you are preparing a five year plan and this is very welcome. Hopefully this plan will ensure greater local support as well as further commitment from State agencies.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new section in the Competition and in the past is an area that has not received as much attention as it should by most Tidy Town Communities. As part of your development plan you should consult suitable authorities with a view to maximising the natural amenities and wildlife habitats throughout the village. The type of trees/shrubs that are planted are important to wild birds. Mature trees, hedgerows and gardens are important habitats.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping work that has been carried out in several locations throughout the village is attractive e.g. the flowerbeds at the triangular area/at the junctions at both ends of the village, the trees particularly approaching the Killucan/Porterstown junction, the presentation of the pump, etc. The triangle at the Kinnegad junction could be maintained to a higher standard and more trees could be planted in several areas and in the wider margins of footpaths as well as in wide grass margins in front of the new houses.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard of presentation of most buildings is satisfactory. The church and school are acceptable. Several of the business premises are attractively painted, particularly The Hill and Hynes. The Working Mans Club is acceptable but the gravelled frontage needs to be weeded. The white wooden railing at the Health Board requires painting.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control in the village proper is satisfactory with little or no litter visible. However, there appears to be slippage in this respect on the approach roads on either side of the village. Substantial amounts of litter were noted between the Health Centre junction and Killucan and also in the junction area at opposite end of the village at the Kinnegad road junction.

TIDINESS

The village proper has a tidy and cared for look. The absence of litter, the generally well presented houses and buildings contribute to give a cared for effect, however, the same impression is not generated at either end of the village. On the approaches at either end of the village weedy margins and weeds at base of stone walls are unsightly and considerably detract from the overall appearance of tidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many attractively painted and presented houses throughout the village. The local authority housing is also well presented with colourful flowers in footpath frontal areas. More regular cutting of grass at the local authority houses in the cul de sac would be a big improvement. Several of these houses have colourful window boxes. A number of private houses need to weed boundary areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There are several gravelled boundary areas on both approach roads which need weeding but particularly in the vicinity of the new housing scheme. The footpaths and gutters in the village proper appear well maintained, however, weeds were noticeable at base of stone walls on several of the approaches. An attractive feature of the village are the many well planted hanging baskets and window boxes which add colour and generally give a lift to the village. There are still a number of iron sheds in the vicinity of the Church which require painting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rathwire has made another good effort in the Tidy Towns Competition and has maintained its standard. However, lack of attention to detail is holding you back. Weeds at stretches of new stone wall are unsightly as are several weedy gravelled margins. Litter control on approach roads need to be stepped up.