

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROCHFORTBRIDGE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	168

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The standard of presentation of Rochfortbridge continues to improve and is a good indication of widespread individual and community support. It is also indicative of the good working relations with statutory bodies such as FAS and the Local Authority. If you have not done so you should consider the preparation of a Development Plan which would help to maintain support in the community as well as focusing attention on problem areas. A development plan would also be useful in obtaining support and in maintaining linkages with the statutory agencies.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new section in the competition and up to now most communities have not given wildlife habitats the attention that they merit. This is an area that you should focus on for the future and obtain advice from suitable experts on how you might best address this heading. Rochfortbridge has a good base to build on, with mature trees, hedgerows, planted gardens, stream, etc.

LANDSCAPING

There are many examples of high quality landscaping work throughout the village in particular the planting and shrubs with the well maintained grass on both sides of the road at the Mullingar junction. The flowerbeds at GMS and in front of the Garda Station, on both sides of the road approaching the Bridge House is also of high order. The trees planted in many locations throughout the village especially at Derrynagreenagh and on the Mullingar and Athlone roads etc. are noteworthy as are the mature trees on the Portarlinton road and indeed there are other examples. Where recently planted trees have failed they should be replaced.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the public buildings and commercial buildings are well presented. Further improvements should be made to the forecourt at Cooneys Garage and the surrounds of the Community Hall are somewhat weedy. The carpark at the Truckers Restaurant is still somewhat unsightly and could be screened to greater effect. The Church and its grounds look well.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good. However, here and there a scattering of litter was visible especially on stretches of the Edenderry road and at the junction area of the Streamstown road with the main road. It is important that you continue to work on improving litter control and you should intensify your work with the schools. A number of litter bins need to be repaired.

TIDINESS

The light scattering of litter does not unduly detract from the neat and tidy appearance of the village. The well maintained grassed areas on the approach roads, the flower beds and the generally well presented buildings contribute to a neat, tidy and well cared for village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the residential areas are of a high standard. The extensive grassed areas at Derrynagreenagh are a good example of community and individual effort. Most of the private houses are generally well presented and many have attractively landscaped gardens. However, a number throughout the village need to weed gravelled areas between boundary walls and road.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In general the maintenance of approach roads is of a high order with neatly and regularly maintained grass verges and extensive tree planting as has already been mentioned. The Dublin/Athlone/Mullingar roads sets the standard for the others. Work in progress was noted on the Edenderry road. An area that still requires attention is the junction of the Edenderry road with the main road. There are several iron roofs in this area which need painting and weeds are present in several gravelled areas and at the base of a number of buildings. The grass surrounds to the derelict house near the Credit Union are well maintained. However, a dilapidated chain link fence was noticeable. There are still too many large hoardings in the village, some of them unsuitably located. Such signs are especially inappropriate in the gardens of private houses. A number of road signs need to be repaired or replaced, e.g. village sign on Edenderry road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Good progress continues to be made. Attention to detail is now more important than ever before. Further improvements can still be made to the Edenderry road junction area.