

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **RATHDRUM**  
County : **WICKLOW**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	14
General Impression	10	4
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>153</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your entry. Unfortunately, neither a detailed questionnaire, nor map was received. This provided minimum amount of information in which the adjudicators could judge both the developmental approach and effort. The adjudicators look forward to the Rathdrum Tidy Towns Committee forwarding their detailed five year work programme for next years competition. In this you should try to be realistic in your objectives, ones that can be achieved or innovative. The work in the development in the Parnell Memorial Park is a credit to past efforts and shows that there is no reason why you cannot continue to develop other features in the town, providing amenities and improving the towns overall appearance. Following last years adjudication it was good to see improvements being made, for example, the removal of overhead wires, try to continue this if possible.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Rathdrum is fortunate, and credit is due here to the efforts and development of the Parnell Memorial Park in having a nice wildlife feature in terms of the lake and park. It was nice to see ducks and ducklings utilising the pond. You also have a river, is there scope to develop a river walk here to promote other wildlife areas. In this regard, there is potential for greater nature conservation in the town. Perhaps a good starting point in the area of nature conservation would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and fish these attract. Why not invite your local environmental experts and groups to get involved and to advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require.

### LANDSCAPING

Two very good presentations were noted this year, one being the Parnell Memorial Park, which continues to be immaculately presented and the Fairgreen where the grass was neatly cut. However, apart from this, there is very little other evidence of improvements in this category. At the Grotto, the grass needed cutting. The triangle by the Avonmore entrance was very bad. The RDA Hall Grounds were also well presented, but try to perhaps replace the boulders with some sympathetic low stone perimeter wall. The triangle at the hospital was very badly presented.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

A number of varying efforts were noted here, some that deserve credit and other areas need to be tackled. The railway station and platform was very well presented, watch the weeds on the approach road. The derelict building adjacent to JET was a bit of an eyesore, as was the old mill by the bridge. The flower baskets at McNabbs were looking well. The Bank of Ireland was well presented, as was T. McGrath's. A new shopfront was noted at the Supermarket, well done. The Cartoon Inn was quite good, as was Avonbrae Guesthouse and grounds, and the Church grounds. Also, the hospital and its grounds were very well presented again this year, well done. Two nice new premises were noted opposite McAdams, which were freshly painted, well done. Try to encourage more of this, you have, potentially, a very attractive town, and though the streets are narrow, brightening up the premises would create a much better effect. The County Council may be able to offer advice regarding colour scheme at the RDA as already mentioned. Try to replace the boulders. The grounds of the Community School were very well presented, as was the hostel. A few premises which took from the overall appearance in this year included the Garda Station which could have been better presented. The adjudicator also noted that, two to three years ago, there was an excellent presentation in the use of flower tubs and baskets in every premises along the Main Street and this for some reason was discontinued - could this be rejuvenated?

### LITTER CONTROL

Overall, quite good this year, well done. The Main Street was litter free, as was the road from Avonmore

Motors to Parnell Park. You seem to have litter management under good control. Bins were in evidence, well done in this area.

#### TIDINESS

The Main Street appeared very tidy. Grass verges need more attention, for example, outside Waterford Co-Op the grass was in need of a cut and the rusty sign should be replaced. It is nice to see that the overhead wires have been removed. The Wexford sign needs to be replaced. At the base of signposts in the square, grass was overgrown. Paint the seats in the green by the RDA Hall.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are some good individual efforts noted throughout the town. No significant improvements were noted. However, one or two premises that deserve a mention are the house next to the Garda Station and good individual effort was noted in several premises going towards the hospital. In the local authority estate, the left hand side was quite good but the right hand side had not been attended to, why? Towards the back, the bollards and grass needs further attention. Overall, not too bad but a slightly more of an effort would make a huge difference.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Glenealy, a very bad impression was given with verges not being cut, grass was overgrown in most places. Approaching the bridge area was untidy by the old mill. On the approach road from Avoca, the same was noted but some cutting was taking place at time of adjudication. Several signs on these approaches needed cleaning or replacement. The approach from Laragh is a lovely tree-lined road - particularly at the Welcome to Rathdrum sign. Very little effort has been noted here - not much is needed only to try and clean up the wall and cut the verges. A similar disappointing effort was noted on the approach from Greenane.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Generally, the adjudicators feel that more of an effort could have been made this year. Perhaps the support of the Tidy Towns Committee might be dwindling, and if this is the case, try to renew your efforts. In the preparation of a five year plan, try to get as much consultation as possible as this will encourage all residents and business interests in the town. We look forward to this plan next year. Overall, the Main Street was okay - litter free, which was welcoming and litter control was quite good throughout. The adjudicator were disappointed with the approach roads, several of the premises and limited landscaping efforts. On the positive side, the adjudicator commends the town on maintaining the park, the Fairgreen and the Main Street. The overall impression was one of a need for greater effort by all involved.