

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHVILLY**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	245	240

Rathvilly, Co. Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your approach to the development of Rathvilly is well thought out and your planning is extremely good. You would appear to have most of, if not, all the Community working with you. This is most important. You have involved the School and youth groups which is to be commended. No doubt you will work on the visibility of the Irish language in signs e.g. place names, commercial premises, club houses, Community Hall, etc, in the years ahead. Do also consider how you can make your village more accessible to those with disabilities. The approach you took last year is reaping rewards for your Committee and Community - well done!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public buildings including the churches, School and Grotto were beautifully presented. The roses looked delightful in the School and the Church. The Hall opposite Molloy's had windows broken and the door needed painting. The graveyard was tidy except for the mound of rubble inside the gate. Gates would need to be painted as would the rail on top of the wall. The commercial buildings Mace and Molloy's were well presented this year - well done ! The reconstruction work on the Credit Union was in progress. The Entente Florale granite boulder with the plaque was suitably located.

LANDSCAPING

Your choice and selection of trees, shrubs and plants is wonderful throughout. You are also continuing to maintain them to a very high standard. The Pump is a lovely feature and the rose beds here are stunning. The entrance to Woodgrove again looked well. All trees are maturing nicely and your choice would appear to have been chosen carefully. Your landscaping throughout is a delight.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have done a lot of work on this aspect. There is great potential for nature conservation in the village. It is a new activity for you. Do focus on the School and youth groups. It is amazing how responsive to the environment young people are. You have identified the main existing areas of wildlife importance in the village. Properly managed nature areas and wildlife will add greatly to your Community. For further assistance and advice contact the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good again this year and your management programme is working well throughout. Some pieces were visible at the graveyard wall and gate area.

TIDINESS

The overall appearance is one of neatness and tidiness. A few weeds observed at the base of the graveyard wall and at the gate. Perhaps you might persuade the owners of the chip van to relocate to a more suitable location in the village. I note that you are having negotiations with them - hopefully you will have a satisfactory outcome. Also the area outside the farm buildings need attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estates and individual houses were very well presented throughout and all concerned are to be congratulated. There was some delightful displays of window boxes and containers on the cut stone buildings in Phelan Street. Woodgrove had its entrance landscaped beautifully and the name stone blended in well. In Kevin Barry Road some properties were exceptionally well presented while some were in need of attention. In Michael Collins Park - it was maintained excellently throughout. Trees are maturing well there. The tree planting done in Fr Cullen Terrace will help to soften the buildings in future years when maturing. Well done to all concerned in the residential areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were presented to a good standard overall. Most signage was in good condition. Some 30 mph signs had marks on them but were clean. The footpath by the School was broken in some areas. The street lamps erected in Phelan Street looked lovely and blend in well with the buildings. Excellent work has been done in putting cabling underground. The entrance to the farmyard on the road to the graveyard needs attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your efforts to involve school children and youth groups in your Tidy Towns efforts are commendable. The village continues to look good and the work done this year further improves the overall appearance. There appears to be a great spirit of co-operation among all sectors of the Community in the presentation of Rathvilly which is marvellous. Well done to all!

SECOND ADJUDICATION (16/08/97)

The village is very well held together by a theme of strong floral displays which employs both striking colours and patterns. This approach extends to the important road junctions, such as on the main Baltinglass road, where the floral display asserts and confirms that one is about to enter a village which is proud of her environment. The treatment of such cottage gardens as at Kevin Barry road and along the road opposite St. Patrick's Park, again confirm that such exemplary displays are not solely limited to public areas. The extensive amount of annual plants may place a heavy demand on the needed upkeep of many areas and possibly such maintenance could be reduced through the use of more permanent plants. The tennis courts and several grottos were particularly well maintained. Perhaps of greatest concern to the overall impression is the treatment of the central triangular area and some of the large parking areas beside this road junction. Though the central island planter is beautifully cared for and

improves the safety of the junction, it must be recognised that it plays a more valuable role in visually connecting the various spaces within village. The treatment of this junction requires further attention.