

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **RUAN**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	25
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	24	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	13
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	18	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>159</b>

## **Ruan, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the well completed application form including map and work sheets. These were very helpful to the Adjudicator. From the worksheets provided it is noted that there has been a planning process put in place and targets set. This is commendable and is the right way forward. However, these plans should be reviewed and updated at regular intervals to ensure that they are achieving their aims. It is obvious that there is a good commitment towards optimising the potential of Ruan and involving the whole community in this aspiration. We also note that you have a good working relationship with Clare County Council, FAS, the schools and Shannon Development to assist you in your efforts.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Stone walls are a feature of Ruan and the surrounding area and it is good to see, that ongoing work is in progress on these in a number of areas and also that some private houses have built good stone surround walls. On the day of adjudication the School on the Dromore approach was neat and tidy with good planting here. However, the side of the temporary wooden classroom needed restaining. The Dalcassion pub looked attractive but the petrol pump area needs to be repainted as soon as possible. As the Dalcassion pub and petrol pumps are in such a dominant position in the village it is important that they are always looking their best. The Church was neat and tidy with nice tubs of flowers at the gate. Morty Kellys pub was looking very well with a very colourful display of flowers in front. Work on the car park opposite was noted. It is good to note that you are working on the purchase of the two derelict buildings on Church Rd - as these are in a central position in the village it would be very beneficial to sort these out.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The planting and grass area on the Ennis approach is very good. Also the grass area and tree planting on the Dromore road. The planting of trees and flower beds on Church road near the speed limit signs are to be commended. The trees planted further in near private houses are progressing nicely and the grass area nearest the village on this road was also well maintained and the more mature trees here are now showing their promise. There is a little flower bed near a light standard across from the Church and the edging around this should be finished off properly and then plant it up - at present it is overgrown. The new tree planting by the Church was noted. Past Morty Kellys pub the grassed area on the left was being mown on the day of adjudication and the tree planting here was noted. Planting has been undertaken at the rear of the Village Inn but unfortunately was a little overgrown on the day of adjudication. This could be a good area with seats for customers to sit out. Perhaps planting of year round shrubs, trying

to ensure that there is some colour at all times, surrounded by gravel or bark for easy maintenance, would be good here. The tubs in front of the Dalcassian bar could be a little more colourful and the small area near the post in front of the petrol pumps should also be planted up.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

It is noted that work has commenced on this aspect of the Competition and that a site has been selected where a wildlife area will be developed. Also that farmers are co-operating in cutting the hedgerows in winter. Your investigations into the wetland natural habitat for frogs sounds interesting. We look forward to seeing progress in these matters.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

We noted that you have requested more litter bins from the County Council. The stone litter bins already in place look well and hopefully the new bins will complement these. The older metal bins (rather battered) no doubt will be removed. There was little evidence of litter on the day of adjudication except on the Dromore road.

## **TIDINESS**

Mostly the village provides a tidy aspect except for the derelict buildings already mentioned and also the work in progress on the car park (which cannot be helped at present). A priority should be set to endeavour to have the speed signs on the entrances to the village and the Yield Right of Way sign right in the middle of the village repainted as these are rather shoddy looking.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Private houses in general are very well presented in the village and on all approach roads. The general planting and presentation around Rosehaven B & B deserves special mention. In the farthest out housing estate on Church Rd ninety per cent of the houses are well presented but some of the surround walls need painting here. The back yard of the private house which faces the end of this estate road is rather untidy and overgrown and spoils the good work of the residents of the estate. As there is no gate to this yard, unfortunately this untidiness is very visible. At the second housing estate nearer the village all houses are well presented. The old cooker abandoned at the rear of the estate should be disposed of properly. The private houses on this road past the signs are well presented with some notable exceptions.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

As mentioned, the approach roads are mostly very well presented and maintained. However, on the Dromore road at the back of the heaps of gravel at present in place here, there are some unsightly pieces of rusting metal in the ditch. On the Corofin road the grass was nicely cut - perhaps some planting of year round shrubs would be good here.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ruan obviously has a very hard working Committee who are

dedicated to improving the village in co-operation with the Community. We look forward to seeing further developments in the years ahead.