

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHBARRY**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	43
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	246	241

Rathbarry, Co Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Congratulations on your success last year: top of your county, which, with over 80 entries, has the largest number of tidy towns in Ireland, north or south. Your 3 Year Plan is extremely useful, and will surely define your objectives over that period, and possibly beyond. You will understand that at the top end of the Competition additional marks are hard to come by. Any adverse points mentioned below are relatively minor.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The only large building of importance is the Church, and this is as well maintained as ever. The Post Office and the Bar are well kept, though the latter needs its chimney stack repainted. Mass-produced signage is not recommended. The problem site building is relatively unsightly as far as its structure is concerned, though its surroundings certainly need upgrading.

LANDSCAPING

As mentioned in previous reports, the landscaping at the back of the Church is exceptionally fine, as indeed are the grass plots and bedding in the village centre. The stone - An Cailteach - is a wonderful idea sensitively carried out. Young beech hedging is excellent. Substantial planting of deciduous trees along the graveyard wall was noted with pleasure.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Muscovy ducks were enjoying the wet weather on adjudication day. The picturesque sign identifying local bird life is first class. Satisfactory improvements have been undertaken above and below the bridge on the banks of the stream. Your plans under this heading show much thoughtful enterprise and their implementation will be looked forward to.

LITTER CONTROL

This is exceptionally good.

TIDINESS

Rathbarry was very tidy indeed on adjudication day. Comments made by last year's adjudicator appeared to have been taken on board. B&B signs are starting to proliferate and should be sympathetically controlled so that this type of untidiness does not reach the epidemic proportions of some other centres. You might incorporate in your Development Plan a scheme for the designing of a unique sign, characteristic of Rathbarry, which could be used by each B&B premises.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are comparatively few houses in Rathbarry. The newer ones respect the nature of the village and its environs, as the older always

have.

STREETS AND BACK AREAS

New stone walls, as indicated in the Development Plan, are a credit to their builders. The Car Park at the back of the Church is well kept; new stone kerbing was much admired. The gravelled right-of-way in the village centre is also admirable. Solid wooden palings in many centres are also highly appropriate. The poles (1K) which are mentioned as having been removed this year appear to be still present - unless different poles are referred to - and this item has been left for information next year.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rathbarry is the focal point of a virtually unique blend of varying types of landscape which converge on the village and have been absorbed very cleverly and sensitively into the village scene.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (8/8/97)

The charming village of Rathbarry looked well on the second adjudication day. It has developed a simple yet effective approach to presentation which is an example to the villages of a similar size throughout the country. The floral displays at the crossroads with their antique agricultural machinery looked very colourful. The stream area was simply presented - particularly to the far side of the bridge from the Post Office with its orange montbretia growing. The stream itself was beautifully clean and unpolluted. Roads throughout the village were generally in good condition and the stone walls were well maintained. The pub and the Post Office were neatly presented although the chimney stack to the former, as mentioned by the first adjudicator, needs freshening up. The retention of the traditional telephone box in traditional colours is highly commendable.