

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHANGAN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209	204

Rathangan, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Rathangan is an attractive town with many interesting features. Your detailed Development Plan, information on a range of school and other projects, leaflets on the canal and nature walks together with photographs etc. all indicate a vibrant community intent on improving the town. You are to be greatly complimented on the work you have carried out and your future plans. The clear sketch map was of great assistance and much appreciated by the adjudicator.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The fine Georgian houses in the green and its vicinity are noteworthy and contribute greatly to the character of Rathangan. The public buildings, churches, schools and the community centre are all in good order and several have impressive features. Most of the industrial premises have landscaped grounds and screening planting. Most have been mentioned in last year's report and it is not necessary to name them again. Most of the shops are well presented; there are however a few that need attention. The general impression of the town's central area is good with restrained signage. The photographs provided show several attractive shop fronts and there are others but none of these are quite up to national award standard.

LANDSCAPING

There are many praiseworthy landscaping features throughout the town. The canal and riverside walks with their closely cut grass, trees, seating, etc. are most attractive and are one of the highlights of a visit to the town. The well kept green with its colourful planting around Ard Mhuire looks well. The mature trees on the Prosperous road and in the vicinity of the Canal Bridge do a good job in screening Williams Wallers silos. The mature trees and the newer planting on the approach roads and in other areas are important in enhancing the quality of the town. The village pump on the Bracknagh road in the town centre together with memorials for William Byrne and Maura Lafferty are good features. The flower beds on the Kildare road and near Spencer Lock are colourful but because of their size seem somewhat lost in the grass margins.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The canal, the river, the numerous trees and shrubs throughout the town are all of great importance to a wide variety of wild life. You might plant buddleias in Tannery Park as one of your objectives is to attract butterflies. At some stage a display board might be provided at Tannery Park or some other location with displays of flora and fauna of the locality. This would add interest for visitors and locals and might be sponsored by some local company.

LITTER CONTROL

This is one of the weaker areas of the town. On the day of inspection a scattering of litter was present in many areas including some of the approach roads, parts of the town centre, in the canal and at the William Byrne memorial. New litter bins were noted throughout the town.

TIDINESS

The town has reached a good standard under this heading but more can be done. Attention to detail is important, e.g. weeding gravelled areas. Mediocre road surfaces do not help. Where possible cut grass should be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many well presented houses throughout the town. Many have attractive gardens. There are also a number of housing schemes under development, e.g. Glebe Court. Spenser Court is impressive and the fine Georgian houses have already been mentioned. Several houses especially in the Bracknagh road need to maintain gravelled boundary areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Prosperous road is particularly attractive with its mature trees, riverside park, stone walls and flower beds. The Edenderry road and Monasterevin road are also noteworthy with well maintained grassed areas and planting. Stretches of the Kildare and Bracknagh roads would look better if cut grass was collected. Several road and traffic signs throughout the town need cleaning.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

An attractive and progressive town that will continue to prosper in the competition. The competition is also encouraging bi-lingualism and improved disabled access. These are areas that could be incorporated into future plans.