

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	248	245

Rathvilly, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Rathvilly is welcome to the 1998 Tidy Towns Competition. Congratulations on keeping up the excellent standard of presentation in the village. It is often difficult to sustain an excellent standard once it is reached. It is clear that everybody is involved in keeping the village at such a high standard and it has been a pleasure to adjudicate the village. You should remember to try and increase the use of Irish language in the signage as we mentioned in our report last year. The additional work that you have carried out this year adds to the superb presentation, congratulations.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Your presentation of almost all buildings in the village is excellent again this year. The presentation is very much enhanced by the beautiful landscaping and floral presentations around many of them, particularly the church at the center of the town. A few weeds have emerged at the grotto and also at the school. The farmyard premises opposite the graveyard is disappointing and it was particularly disappointing to see a mound of sand at the entrance there. The streetscape looked very well in that all the buildings, (those in natural stone and those with a plaster finish) looked well and were enhanced by the floral displays, particularly along Phelan Street. It should be noted, however, that a lot of signage within windows, (as was noted at the Mace store), and also items outside on the pavement, (as was noticed at the shop behind the Kevin Barry Monument) do detract from the overall appearance of the building and the general streetscape.

LANDSCAPING

Well done on keeping up the excellent standard and variety of presentation this year as you have done in previous years, all the public open spaces are very neatly and colourfully presented and the smaller incidental spaces such as the newly planted area behind the tennis court are all commendable. The trees, particularly along the Tullow road which are now quite mature, look very well. The one small triangular space adjoining the tennis court looked a little bit neglected this year.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This aspect of your work is most commendable and the involvement of the students in identifying the flora and fauna at the Slaney will be most useful to you in your future planning in this aspect of your work. The natural hedgerows are well preserved and maintained and the area along by the Slaney is most appropriately presented, well done.

LITTER CONTROL

You have kept up the excellent standard again this year, hardly any litter was to be seen on the date of adjudication. A small amount was noticed opposite the graveyard as was the case last year. This must be a small trouble spot area. Well done on keeping up the good standard.

TIDINESS

Again you have achieved an excellent standard of neatness and tidiness this year. This is evident on entering the village. A few weeds were found in a couple of spots such as along the base of some walling at the graveyard, at the school and at a couple of entrances. As stated in our section on the built environment, items outside on the street can be visually obtrusive and create an impression of clutter, not to mention being a safety hazard for the disabled. Most of the premises did not have this problem. Well done on your good standard this year.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Particularly of note this year is the presentation of many individual houses along the streets in the approach roads to the village center. These are considered to be excellent this year and everybody should be congratulated. Similarly the estates were well presented and the houses along Phelan Street are to be commended again. The floral displays on the cut stone buildings looked extremely well. Woodgrove is well presented. There is the possibility that you could put a planting scheme at the end of this cul-de-sac as you have done at the top. This cul-de-sac isn't quite finished off at the end and maybe some planting there would create a nice vista at the end of the roadway. Like last year, in Kevin Barry road, many of the premises were very well presented but some are still in need of attention and this detracts from the overall impression of this attractive cul-de-sac. At Father Cullen Park, in the open spaces, there was one patch that looked somewhat burned out. Perhaps this will be replanted next year. Planting in open spaces in some of the housing schemes would enhance their presentation somewhat, but overall the standard is very good, congratulations.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard of presentation this year is excellent. There are only one or two problems, one being the farm buildings opposite the graveyard. This unfortunately is somewhat unsightly and some improvements here would be welcome. The watermill near the Slaney bridge is an attractive premises but unfortunately the premises could be improved in that some weeds had just been sprayed with weed killer and had not been removed. Also it is noticed that there was in all likelihood, a sign on the gable end of the building on the approach from Dublin. This should either be replaced with signage similar to the new signage featured on the front elevation of the building or completely painted over.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

To visit your village on a wet morning was a pleasure in that there was brightness of colour and a sense of real care and attention from the entire village population. Particularly attention to detail. This is most commendable. The overall impression is excellent. Well done to everyone on this excellent standard again this year.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (14/08/98)

A remarkable entry once again. Particularly impressive are the major "face-lifts" given to the Credit Union and the Community Centre, but the whole village was looking resplendent on second adjudication day, and even the oft-mentioned mobile foodstore seemed to have received a coat of paint. Flowers did not appear to have been affected by the persistent poor weather. Very little litter was seen. A wonderful community effort.