

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>170</b>

## **Ruan, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for information contained in the application form, together with extract from the HAYES plan. This plan is commendable but will only be as good as its implementation. Your close liaison with the various agencies is praiseworthy, but the real success of tidy towns lies with community spirit and effort. You should list about ten points each year that can be tackled by the Committee and pursue them to conclusion.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The buildings praised last year have maintained their standard. The prefab at the school is now quite shabby and needs painting. There are too many signs at the Dalcassion Foodstore and the existing ones are far too large. The landscaping around Morty Kellys pub is very good and not overdone. The Church again looked well this year. It has a most distinctive spire.

### **LANDSCAPING**

You have much potential for attractive landscaping throughout the many open spaces. Your desire to use stone in your landscaping programme is understandable in line with the traditions of the area. However, too much stone without complementary tree planting should be avoided. It is best to contrast the stonework with green areas where practical. You need to concentrate on the approach roads and try to make the village more compact by "tying" in the breaks with either trees or landscaping. Hanging baskets are really not necessary in rural villages which should retain their more rural ethos. This can be achieved by planting similar trees in clusters or in rows and by using the traditional plant type that will grow well in the area. The village pump is attractive and well located.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This new section in the competition offers scope for increased success. Your opportunity for wildlife lies in the hedgerows and open space areas.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The aim here should be to prevent rather than collect litter. Traders should themselves supply litter bins in strategic locations on their premises. Litter control was good on adjudication day. The quality of bins available has improved in recent years and all litter bins should be free standing.

### **TIDINESS**

Your problems here relate to badly kept overgrown open spaces. Also, the work of previous years with the treatment of the unoccupied building opposite the old schools needs redoing. There is no progress yet on the fairgreen - can this be tackled for next year. The yield sign on the Dromore Road is broken.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREA**

Due to its adjacency to Ennis town, the village is likely to undergo a good deal of house building in the immediate years ahead. These should be in keeping with the rural environment. There is scope within the village for infill development, which would be much more acceptable than ribbon development on existing approach roads. Existing houses are well kept and many have attractive landscaped gardens. The small terrace of houses is well presented, but the large trailer parked opposite is unacceptable. When promoting the improvement of estates, don't forget the boundary walls.

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

In general, approach roads are well kept and the grass was cut on the adjudication day. You have scope to improve the approach roads and you should consider the erection of a well designed Fáilte sign on the principal approaches. Because of the village layout many side and rear entrances are quite visible to the passing visitor. This category is now an important part of the competition.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The village is quite widespread, relevant to the population. You have made a good decision in compiling an agreed plan. You now need to get the backing of the community and the commercial interests within the village. You will then find it easier to get improved co-operation from the relevant agencies. Good luck for 1999.