

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RAHARNEY**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	177	172

Raharney, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the detailed map, the information and plan which was very useful to the adjudicators. The information was comprehensive, set out well and included a time scale which drives the Committee to their objectives and also gives a great sense of satisfaction when times completed can be ticked off. The litter campaign is working and work on the new wall is almost complete. The island area still needs attention. Well done on work completed for this year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The few buildings in the village were satisfactory in presentation. The Granite was well painted and presented. The church on which work was being carried out, will look well when complete. McHughs requires attention though and Weirs was satisfactory though a problem with the tin roof is that it needs painting regularly. There was a wall of foxgloves admired outside O'Reillys. This is how native flora can be used to enhance the village. The school looked fine and the outside wall area was neat and tidy. The green area in front of the Village Close estate require further tidying.

LANDSCAPING

There is some fine landscaping at the village green and it is well maintained. Roses in front of the park area (the island) were also well maintained and in full bloom. The grotto looked well and planting here too was well presented. Native trees and shrubs rather than exotics such as Cordylines must be used when landscaping a village such as this located in the heart of the countryside. There was also some nice landscaping outside a house on the Delvin road though building material required removal here.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are several habitats that can be considered in Raharney. The river is a very pleasant. It is good to see that the area is to be cleared, though do take care and not to clear it of native flora as this was very pleasant with daisies and other wildflowers apparent by the river bank. What is the disused telephone box doing in the middle of the park area?? Really this area is perfect for wildflowers and some native shrubs. Perhaps there could be some informal planting, but do not overlandscape as this so often happens in villages and takes away the natural beauty. Also in landscaping, a great deal of maintenance is required which puts pressure on the local people. Consider plants and shrubs for year round interest e.g. Witchhazel (Jan), Willows (Feb) Berried plants for the Autumn and winter - even Ivy which is favourite for birds

etc. Advice on this can be sought through books and experts such as Conservation Volunteers and Birdwatch Ireland. Information signs should also be set out in wood so as not to detract from the rural nature of the area. Other habitats that can be considered include meadows and hedgerows and these should be assessed to see how they can be enhanced and managed in the future.

LITTER CONTROL

There was only a small amount of litter evident on the day of adjudication and this was on the Hill of Down road. Litter bins were generally well presented, however a new litterbin is required outside the shop. Your plans and your involvement with the local school regarding litter is commendable.

TIDINESS

The village was generally tidy on the day of adjudication. Hedges and grassy areas were well cut back except for that in front of the homes on the Corbertstown road, and this was commendable considering the poor weather so far in June. Gravel beside the carpark required removing.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There were several well presented residences around the green. Houses on the Ashcroft estate were fine - the proposed tree planting could perhaps include small groves of native trees - Birch, Rowan, Willow, Hazel, Ash and perhaps a copse of Maples which provide superb autumn colour. Birdtables could also be set in this area to encourage wildlife. At the moment a dead tree required removing. A wall on a house opposite the school needs repainting though splashes from passing vehicles probably make it difficult to keep clean. Perhaps some climbers such as Polygonum creeper would help the problem. A lovely old traditional cottage on the Ballivor road is becoming derelict which is a pity.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road approaches were reasonable and the roads around the village were also satisfactory. The Hill of Down road was well cut back - do allow wildflowers to come through in places. A rusty roof on the Ballivor road detracted from the approach and the speed signs on the Killucan road required some cleaning.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Raharney is steadily progressing in the competition. The development plans are to be commended and the committee are on the right track for progression. Well done on the seminars/fund-raising events. Knowledge and information gives you scope to think of future developments and future enhancements of the village. Well done on completed work and the adjudicators look forward to returning to see future results of

plan implementation.