

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHWIRE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	22	23
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	21
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	164	165

Rathwire, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the map which was useful to the adjudicators. Continue with the implementation of the plan though it may be beneficial if you set yourselves perhaps 5-10 objectives that have to be achieved within a specific year. Rathwire is a pleasant village and has the benefit of not being on a main road like Killucan with the through traffic flow . There is a tremendous amount of building which will expand the population of the village - it is good to see the villages of Ireland growing rather than declining as they have done in the past.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings in the village were reasonably presented though many of them required some work on them. The exterior wall of the school required repainting and the village hall required an uplift through some planting of baskets and planters; The Church was well presented with newly painted railings and though Jimmys' was satisfactory, Hynes would benefit from some attention. The Health Centre was presented reasonably and the grass was cut back. The village pump was well painted , however, would you consider using one colour - this would be more traditional. There are several tin roofs in the village that would benefit from repainting. The area of the wayside crosses (are they your jurisdiction?) really require attention They are an inherent part of your heritage. There is cement here, perhaps for future use ?

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping though good in places requires a greater concerted effort. Tree maintenance is essential. Dead or struggling trees e.g. outside Jimmy's and in the small estate, either need to be removed or nursed. The use of weedkiller around the Midland Health Centre though effective, causes a burnt look and does not look well. Perhaps more careful application is required. The use of more permanent planting in the form of trees and shrubs (preferably native) should be considered to build a framework of planting. This summer has proved poor showing for many of the annual plants. The stone walls opposite the club and around the stone crosses were admired, though will improve as natural vegetation makes an impact.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The areas of wildlife habitat should be identified and a resource assessment carried out. Perhaps you can link a project to the canal. There is a walkway opposite the school. This could be selectively cleared and a wildflower walkway/path created. It could be carried out in conjunction with the school. Use advice from those who are knowledgeable e.g. Birdwatch Ireland and

Conservation Volunteers.

LITTER CONTROL

Unfortunately there were several bits of litter to be seen on the day of adjudication - along the Mullingar junction road and opposite the school. Some of the bins were reasonable though the one outside the school was in a state of disrepair. It is good to get the schoolchildren involved in the litter campaign and this will bear fruit eventually.

TIDINESS

The village was reasonably tidy. The removal of building material is required when work has been complete e.g. the carpark opposite the church, and traffic cones should be removed from outside the school.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses were generally well presented. Those on the Mullingar junction area had some freshly painted walls. In the village they were well kept. Nice gardens and some pleasant hanging baskets at St. Joseph's were admired. The new houses will mature and although they are new, some landscaping had already taken place - well done. A house near the Kinnegad junction showed off some nice planting and hanging baskets.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Mullingar approach road was reasonable - however, is there a place name sign for Rathwire here? Keep an eye on all traffic signs - yield, directional, speed and stop signs require to be kept clean and legible. The Kinnegad road requires attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rathwire needs to concentrate on a couple of areas and persevere. Litter eradication should be one area and perhaps approach roads. Rathwire has been presented well on both accounts in the past and it has potential to do well in the future. Best of luck with future work.