

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	22
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	25	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	247	248

Rathvilly, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

There is evidence of continual work over many years in Rathvilly resulting in a very high standard of achievement. No overall plan was received with the application and while there is a strong focus of attention with the work, a plan for three to five years will help the pursuit of all the goals. Making use of all the natural advantages in a village enhances its appearance. The stone, thorn hedges, natural countryside and river are particular advantages to draw on.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The stone buildings are particularly important. Restoration of buildings such as in Phelan Street make a very attractive picture. Very few of these have the original style of window. There is a variety of window types now which is a pity and this represents a lost opportunity. The Church with attractive stonework and railings form a striking focal point in the centre of the village. Some attention to buildings opposite the cemetery would be helpful at this stage. The wall opposite the stone terraced houses at Phelan Street is a curious mixture with a concrete coping on beautiful stone which is itself obscured by 50% concrete. The monuments, statues and plaques are very interesting and add to the enjoyment of the village.

LANDSCAPING

The surrounding countryside sets off the village to perfection. The predominant colour in the surrounding countryside is green. Please do not be afraid to repeat this successful colour within the town. The variegated poplar trees seem to be over planted a little and the coloured maples are in danger of following the same pattern. The many thorn hedges planted and maintained are a welcome and wise choice. The floral displays in the open spaces and outside individual premises are well presented. Is the railings around the two greens to the front of the church really necessary? The green with the Kevin Barry monument survives perfectly well without railings and is more accessible. Many gardens both on the approach roads and within the estates are well maintained and this gives a lovely atmosphere to the village. It also demonstrates how every individual in the village can make a contribution privately as well as through community projects. The cemetery is well maintained and perhaps the walls, devoid of almost any natural vegetation, are a little sterile. There is great opportunity for tree plantings in the Fr. Cullen terrace area. The large greens within the estate desperately need tree planting.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside area offers very good potential for development as a

riverside walk. Such a possibility should be pursued. The hedgerows are in themselves a nature reserve and their cutting should conform to a method allowing maximum wildlife support.

LITTER CONTROL

There is a very clean appearance in the village. Some litter on Phelan street, however, was noticeable. This is a national problem and everybody tries their best to resolve it.

TIDINESS

Rathvilly has a particularly tidy appearance. This is immediately noticeable on approach. The overhead cables detract a little from this and their removal should be pursued with vigour. The tidy and neat well cared for homes add to the appearance. The green painted picket fence below the Burmah petrol station, the attractive treatment of the Fr. Ryan Park and the many unique stone features all contribute to the tidiness of this village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Great pride in homes and gardens is noted as mentioned above. The entrance to St. Patricks Park is wonderful. With high standards of home and gardens those who are a little less caring are shown up easily and encouragement may be needed. There are interesting homes and gardens in Kevin Barry road. The grotto at the entrance is a little unimaginative with its two century like conifers. Also the border at the entrance to the estate may be better surrounded with stone kerbing rather than concrete. Some attention to painting in Fr. Cullen Tce is needed, as well as concealment of block walls by planting on the greens as mentioned above. The planters are well shown off through the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road surfaces are well maintained. New tarmac has been laid and is well done. The attractive walk from the village to the watermill is dangerous with no footpaths on either sides, especially so at the bend.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rathvilly is a village very well cared for over a long time. A good spirit of pride and co operation is very evident

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/99)

Rathvilly is, if anything, tidier than ever in the overall, though there seems to have been a falling-off under 'Wildlife', and also under 'Residential'. The latter refers only to Kevin Barry Road where at least three frontages fall well below the general standard, and Father Cullen Park where poor central grassing and an absence

of planting compares unfavourably with other areas; the rest of the housing in the village, both traditional and modern, remains as delightful as ever.