

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	26	22
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	182	172

Ruan, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ruan is very welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. The church spire rising behind the supermarket and framed by the mature trees in the foreground on the Tubber road with a backdrop of fields behind is a fine view of the village at first sight. It is good to note the amount of voluntary assistance from the community for evening clean-ups and other projects. Your idea to depict the fairs of Ruan as a theme in the development of your park at Moneen is excellent and we look forward to its completion.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The school with its nicely landscaped grounds is most attractive. The Dalcassian Foodmarket and Post Office could be freshened in respect of whitewashing and repainting the signage. The old plastic neon signs are dated now and a newer one would improve the appearance of this building. The old Coca-Cola sign should definitely be removed. The canopy on the adjacent petrol filling area might also be upgraded, however the flower display and other planting here looks really well to the roadside boundary together with semi-mature trees and flowering shrubs to the side. The church and its grounds look particularly well. Landscaping around the carpark of the Village Inn has matured nicely and this area looks very well.

LANDSCAPING

There is further scope for landscaping on the Corrofin entrance to the village on an incidental site. Newly planted trees on the grass verge on the Tubber entrance look well and will enhance this entrance to the village as they mature. Is the Moneen Park fully developed? The green area across from the Morty's Bar and Lounge would also be suitable for landscaping or for a park development. Flower displays around the village looked quite well, however the emphasis in future years of the competition should be on displays of permanent shrubs and trees rather than bedding plants. Always choose native species as these will attract wildlife.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We note with interest a reference to a frog sanctuary on the Dysart road. You can give us some more information on this. Perhaps it could be signposted so that visitors may be made aware of it. The small site located between the Dalcassian Shop-N-Centre and the derelict house could be developed as a wildlife garden as an interim measure until its complete development. The graveyard looks well.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good during adjudication. Your litter awareness programme / education in the national school appears to be successful in this respect together with your weekly clean-ups.

TIDINESS

Be a little more vigilant regarding weed growth along kerbs, this was noted both in the village centre and out the Tubber road. No doubt the building materials in storage on the Tubber road will be removed on the completion of footpath construction. Ensure that all traces are removed as this site is well within the confines of the village. The derelict residential property across from the old national school has some nice architectural features which hopefully will be retained upon refurbishment. We note with interest your awareness - raising activities regarding individuals private property as well as community involvement in the general appearance of the village. Be cognizant also of building materials and other rubble. These should always be removed upon completion of work.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Some roadside boundary walls to private dwellings on the road to the church need to be upgraded. Stone nameplates for estates are a good idea and create a stronger sense of identity and community, we look forward to seeing these next year. Well done on the removal of derelict cars from estates. One or two gardens looked exceptionally well, the first was a B&B at the entrance to the village from the Ennis road, and the second near the Morty's Bar and Lounge.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entrance to the village from the Ennis road looked well with its flower displays and high stone wall. The speed limit sign here could be repainted. Stretches of stone wall on the Corrofin entrance could be revealed and highlighted as an attractive element of the village. Footpath construction on the Tubber road was in progress during adjudication. The water pump looks well with its stone surrounds. The church carpark could be resurfaced. The involvement of the farming community in hedgerow maintenance is excellent and no doubt you are aware of the best times of the year, in respect of wildlife, for trimming hedgerow. The wirescape in the village centre is quite visually obtrusive and these cables should be ducted eventually and service poles replaced with attractive lampstandards.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ruan is a beautiful rural village full of charm, peace and

tranquility. It is a village where the travelling public might like to stop for a while and so the development of the park will be a valuable asset. You might also consider developing country walks.