

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHCOOLE-DUBLIN**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	17
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	207	201

Rathcoole, Co. Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed application form and map, highlighting the work that you have carried out in Rathcoole over the past year. You obviously have good co-operation from the various statutory, voluntary and private bodies in your area and these working relationships are to be encouraged. Involving the schools in your village's development, including the areas of litter, tidiness, wildlife and recycling is wonderful and this should be continued on a long term basis. As mentioned in last year's report, we would strongly encourage you to compile a 3-5 year plan to provide some kind of focus and goals for the community to work to. This has proved most effective in other towns and vast improvements have been noted as a result. Congratulations on the work carried out throughout the village to date.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Despite the ongoing motorway construction close by, we found Rathcoole to be remarkably attractive and well maintained. Your ongoing efforts in this regard are clearly paying off. An Poitin Stil was nicely painted and decorated with lovely flower arrangements and the carpark also looked well with very little incidental litter and nicely planted trees. This created a lovely first impression of the village from the Naas end. The Bank of Ireland building, McDowney's Pub and The Four Corners Credit Union all looked bright and colourful and the work carried out on The Court of Petty Sessions has been most successful. Vixen hair salon in the shopping centre makes a great impression with its unusual and attractive shop frontage. The Mace shop on the main street would benefit from a repainting.

LANDSCAPING

We noted the recent landscaping that has been carried out throughout Rathcoole which enhances the streetscape and surrounding area wonderfully. The new planting at the entrance to Coolamber estate and the new trees and planting at the Holy Family National School looked very well - we were delighted to also see some birdboxes in the trees there. There was some lovely landscaping and shrubbery evident at the entrance to the Catholic Church and your work re-landscaping the Dublin entrance to the village has created a lovely, colourful first impression from this approach road. The green area outside the Community Centre however needs some further development to improve the appearance of this location. The beautiful landscaping of the Olympic Gardens is very impressive and a credit to the work that you have carried out in conjunction with South Dublin County Council.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The green, expansive and wonderfully peaceful Rathcoole Park is a lovely amenity to have so close to the village and so near to a motorway. The information board erected there is also an attractive and useful visitor facility. We look forward to seeing this park develop and mature in coming years.

LITTER CONTROL

Your plans and measures for litter management in Rathcoole involving the schools, businesses and residents are commendable and it seems to be working well, particularly along the main street and throughout residential areas. The extra sweeping and clean up carried out on weekend mornings in Rathcoole is very wise as it is over this period that much rubbish can gather. Please ensure that you are as vigilant along the side roads and laneways as there was some incidental litter evident there. The adjudication took place the morning after one of the events of the Rathcoole Community Council Annual Festival and there were huge amounts of litter and beer cans to be seen in the carpark and grassy areas behind the community centre. While this is understandable, it was quite disappointing and unsightly to discover this at 12.30pm the next day. We would suggest that in future you organise an early morning clean up the day after such an event.

TIDINESS

The efforts undertaken to maintain the tidiness of Rathcoole are working well and its appearance overall is one of a clean and neat village. Your re-cycling initiatives are commendable and we hope that your proposed kerb side recycling plans for the village are successful. The weeding and spraying around the main village seems to be successful with the kerbs, walls and buildings very well maintained. Some attention however is needed to the kerbs of the road down to the community centre and in some residential areas. Graffiti was also evident at the entrance to the village, just before Beechwood Lawns Estate.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estates and residential areas of Rathcoole were very nicely presented, with plenty of colourful flowers, well kept lawns and attractive shrubbery to be seen throughout. Beechwood Lawns Estate with its new landscaping and maturing native trees looked very well and we noted the nice open area, well maintained gardens and bins with bilingual signage in Hillview Estate. Some kerb management is required here however. Maple Grove Estate also boasts some nice gardens, flowers and well kept kerbs although the building and grounds opposite looked rather unsightly which detracted from it. The houses on Coolamber Drive looked very attractive.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

You seem to be paying good attention to the side roads and laneways of Rathcoole as there was virtually no graffiti to be seen here. Do watch out for incidental litter that can gather here though. There was some litter scattered around the end of Tay Lane, possibly due to the ongoing construction taking place in this area. The resurfacing of this laneway will be very welcome, particularly given that Firbrook Guest Accommodation is located there. The approach roads into Rathcoole are much improved with the addition of flowers, shrubs and trees and the visibility of some bilingual signs on the approaches to the village was noted and commended.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rathcoole is noticeably improving year by year in the Tidy Towns competition and the obvious community spirit you have generated in this regard deserves praise. We look forward to seeing future developments in your village.