

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHKEALE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	23	21
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	206	204

Rathkeale, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning completed entry form. You do not say if you are working to a phased development plan. Your town has undergone significant change since the development of the by-pass. This has resulted in a major reduction of traffic, which has freed up the town and offers a greater degree of discipline in parking etc. The absence of traffic has also left heretofore busy areas redundant and there are implications for the local community. Much of the old Rathkeale is in need of refurbishment and many old houses have been developed with materials not suitable for the character and traditions of Rathkeale.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many of the public buildings are presented to a high standard - especially the newer ones i.e. Carnegie Free Library, Mercy Community College, Heritage Centre and the Hotel in particular. Both banks are well presented and shopfronts of interest include Kathleen's Bar, Sean Ó Braonáin and Oifig and Phoist. No progress yet on the Old Cinema. The work at the Augustinian Abbey seems to have ceased and there is no information plaque to give a brief history - could you tackle this locally?

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping associated with the by-pass is excellent, in particular from the roundabout near the Catholic Church. The park at the Abbey is well presented but the tennis court now seem obsolete - also the nearby building with no identity. You have great potential for improvement at the river, but this area has deteriorated in recent years. The cattle mart is a let down and not acceptable so near a residential area. Could you contact Golden Vale and seek their help. The amenity area on the Balingarry approach is a gem - well done to those responsible for maintenance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps one of the schools might undertake a wildlife project and carry out a survey of the animal and birdlife in the area.

LITTER CONTROL

You have scored well in this area and the main streets were almost litter free - indeed excellent. Litter collection was also observed during adjudication day. Litter bins seem adequate in number and well positioned.

TIDINESS

You have a problem with tidiness resulting from so many derelict and unattended open spaces. There are numerous small open spaces that have potential for attractive landscaping - could you tackle some of these for next year?

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The town is unique in that it has an inordinate number of transient families using the town. The new houses - many unoccupied and heavily fortified are now deteriorating at a fast rate. There seems to be no discipline in the planning enforcement here and the different scale of houses and allied buildings has little consistency - in short there seems to be two communities in Rathkeale, which is unique to a town of its size. Within the town centre many individuals have gone to great efforts to present their premises to a high standard and this is acknowledged.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some of the signage has gone shabby and now needs repainting. Even the attractive small black signs are now fading and should be freshened up. Side and rear entrances are now a core part of Tidy Towns and need extra attention. The approach roads are all important to Rathkeale as they present first impressions. You have plenty of scope for further planting and improved approaches. You should consider an illustrated Fáilte sign at the principal approaches.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The many attractive buildings with great character in Rathkeale deserve to be highlighted. With the reduction in traffic you now have an opportunity to further enhance the town - this can only be done if you get the backing from the community. Good luck in your efforts.