

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **RHODE**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	33
The Built Environment	40	31	32
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	13
Litter Control	40	30	32
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>210</b>

## **Rhode, County Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the completed entry form; it was helpful to get the enclosed photograph to describe the wildlife area. The three to five year action plan is still required and this is the reason for the drop in marks in this category. It should be prepared and address both the wish list and problems the committee are facing. There is quite a large committee associated with this village and the mark in this area reflects an adjudication for the development plan as well as the entry form. Hopefully, this is a short term drop in marks.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The village reflects a typical format of growth from a crossroads as there is a growing element of ribbon development along the entry roads thus the road area becomes an extensive component of the village and the facades of buildings and their relationship to the road environment becomes important. The car parking at the pub area needs to be handled in a more integrated manner if it is not to undermine the prominence of the crossroads. At present it is quite large. Killeens shop was very well presented and the health centre improved with the hanging baskets. Mulvin's pub could do with some painting and the church is very well presented with traditional colours, while the small scale car park does not detract from the setting.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There is a very pleasant green associated with the edge of the village and much of the planting is maturing from previous years illustrating the effectiveness of long term planting arrangements. There is a very strong theme of ash trees associated with the village and this should be built upon. Perhaps further plantings to enclose the gap between the village centre and the crossroads with the National School could further extend this theme. The path and edges leading to the school are well maintained and there is a real opportunity for extending the connecting hedge.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The wildlife entry at the school must be commended, in particular choice of trees and the placement of labels on each plant. It is in a good location for educational purposes; however, it does seem slightly regimented and weed control would seem to be in conflict with this particular display as many of the weeds are native plants. Perhaps

the layout could be less rectangular and seek to be more extensive along the boundary of the school. Again there are lots of ash trees associated with the surrounding landscape and it is a pity to see the extent of introduced foreign species, in particular the variegated poplar. It is noted that the committee took on the comments from last year's adjudicator.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

It is noted that this is an ongoing problem and directly related with the source of litter. On the day of adjudication control was quite poor particularly at the crossroads. However, given the limited amount of sources of litter, it should be easily controlled and perhaps more litter bins may aid in an effective outcome.

### **TIDINESS**

Entry roads to the village and the overall appearance throughout the whole village setting is very good; however, the paths to the housing areas are rather unattractive and in need of upgrading.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

All areas are excellent and many gardens well presented; though the estates are quite small in scale, they really form quite a good edge to the main road and are very well kept. It is good to see that the new housing being added to the village is not following the general pattern of ribbon development as this concentrates the focus of the village to a central area and reduces the overall pressure for housing to develop along the entry roads.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Perhaps the name signs into the village need to be cleaned; all roads are well maintained and the appearance is very tidy. This is a time consuming task with increasing growth in the village area and all should be commended for the works.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

There are lots of elements being tackled by the committee in this village and the overall presentation is producing a very harmonious aspect. Perhaps the presentation of the three to five year plan will help the selection of tasks for each year and aid in the adjudication process so that specific items can be better examined.