

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHGORMACK**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	22	--
Landscaping	40	16	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	--
Litter Control	40	18	--
Tidiness	20	10	--
Residential Areas	30	15	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	--
General Impression	10	4	--
TOTAL MARK	300	145	--

Rathgormack, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

A sincere welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition for 1999 and no doubt this will be the first of many years. It was wonderful to receive your very comprehensive plan for the enhancement of your village and its environs. Every aspect has been covered in great detail and no doubt it will be an excellent guide for your Tidy Towns activities. The next step now should be to set out your objectives for each year. It is good to see that you have formed close working relationships with the County Council and LEADER. There are also other agencies who can help and advise you including FÁS, the Regional Tourism Authority, ESB, Telecom Eireann and the National Rehabilitation Board. The plan is an excellent guide for your Committee. It has brought out the heritage aspects of your village which is most welcome. These aspects will be of good interest to visitors in your area. Perhaps you might also in your Signposting Programme promote greater visibility of the Irish language where appropriate. I note that you have nine members on your Committee and no doubt more will be willing to join. Do call on the assistance of the officers from the various clubs both sporting and cultural in the community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The presentation of buildings and streetscapes including bi-lingual signage where appropriate and the provision of access for persons with mobility problems will no doubt be taken into account. The Garda Station on the day of adjudication was clean and tidy but the gates and windows do need painting. The Waterford Foods building was in a poor condition and does need considerable work done to it. The business properties in the village do need attention and hopefully that will be done over the next few years. One pub which appeared to have been recently renovated had some nice stone work around it. The Church was well presented but the gates do need painting and the boundary wall needs attention. The car park at the Church had some blocks, etc which need to be removed. The School was well maintained and had some nice trees planted inside. Again some more suitable shrubs and trees could be planted inside the boundary. You have plans for any dereliction in the village which should be addressed over coming years.

LANDSCAPING

You have plans for the management of open spaces and for appropriate landscaping throughout the village. You have indicated the Church car park, the Dungarvan road side of the village, approach road, junctions, traffic signs stops and appropriate trees in the village centre and that will include flowers and shrub planting. I would suggest that you have a look at the Tidy Towns Handbook which was sent to you recently. This contains some very useful advice and contacts for you. There is also a suitable area before the houses on the Dungarvan road which could be landscaped. You have also indicated in your plan that you intend to create an attractive landscape feature on wasteground near the Petrol Station. Adjudicators in the years ahead will look forward to seeing progress under this category. It is also important to take into account the maintenance of the planted areas and trees together with the management of open spaces.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have an abundance of wildlife in the hedges throughout the village and in the outskirts. In your plan you have identified the various shrubs, trees and plants which grow throughout the village. As a new Tidy Towns Committee you have an important role to play in protecting, enhancing and increasing the wildlife value of your community and it is great to see that you have included it in your long term plans and development work. Again perhaps you could consult the Tidy Towns Handbook for some further information which might be useful to you. Additional guidance is available from the Irish Wildlife Conservancy.

LITTER CONTROL

It is good to see that you have put arrangements in place for the prevention and control of litter on an on-going basis. This section relating to litter control carries 40 marks which reflects the importance of having and maintaining a clean outdoor environment and no doubt you will liaise with the County Council regarding plans for the collection of litter. It is possible for the Committee and the local community to operate on an on-going voluntary basis with the Local Authority in ensuring that all the areas in the village are maintained in a litter-free state. One should also consider the promotion of anti-litter awareness within the community. Also the provision of litter bins is very important especially in the right place and they should be frequently emptied. It is also necessary to involve young people and there are many ways in which their energy and interest can be harnessed by the local Tidy Towns Committee. It would also be important to involve the schools and youth organisations such as Macra, the Scouts, youth clubs, etc. There were some pieces of litter observed at the School and Church. Some more pieces were noted along the kerbs but most amounts were very small.

TIDINESS

The overall tidiness of a village is very important and this would include the location, colour, screening and signage of any recycling facilities being considered, and the absence of fly posting and graffiti. Another aspect is the control of weed growth on kerbs and at buildings and walls. This could be undertaken by individual property owners or on a co-ordinated basis organised by the local committee.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses are presented very well throughout the village although some boundary walls do need attention. Assessment includes the presentation of the buildings, the level of maintenance together with the treatment of boundary walls, fences and the roadside areas. Linkages to the village are also taken into the account and that is in the form of footpaths, street lighting and signposting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The new footpath by the School extending into the village centre is to be welcomed - with the addition of more new footpaths it will improve the whole streetscape of the village. Gates into open spaces and fields need to be treated, painted and tidied up around them. There are some nice stretches of stone walls in the village, when these are restored and cleaned it will certainly enhance it. No doubt in the provision of the new footpaths you will take into account persons with mobility problems. Again the appropriate handling of signage is important and where appropriate the use of bi-lingual signage.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village has great potential to do well in future years. You have a very good plan which will guide you throughout. It is good to hear that entering the Competition has created a great buzz in the Community. With the hard work and commitment which you have great strides will be made in the coming years. Adjudicators will look forward to seeing the progress made. Your efforts will do much to improve the presentation of your village and will enhance overall. We wish your Committee every success with your plan and continued good wishes to each and every one of the Committee in their work for tidier towns.