

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROCKCORRY**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	27	24
Landscaping	40	34	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	16	14
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	208	198

Rockcorry, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire and map, and your plans for 1999, they were very helpful. As mentioned in last year's report, you are requested to include a proposed long term work programme for the village as part of the competition entry. A concise 3/5-year plan outlining achievable targets for the committee, will help focus your work in the future, and allow the adjudicator to measure your success. You have some new ideas for future projects that will reflect the unique heritage of your village, and enhance it further. Once again your progress to date continues to prove that this committee can both plan and achieve.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many of the commercial and public buildings in the village were once again well maintained and presented. The Health Centre with its fabulous flowers, the adjoining Take - Away, the Post Office, and McCormicks, all looked well. Both Churches and their grounds looked very well, and the house adjoining the Presbyterian Church looked well with some lovely garden railings. The wall and approach area to the water treatment plant looked tidy and nicely presented again this year, with an attractive wall and sign. The loading bay past Mc Cormicks was tidy, but the area between it and the Marian Hall needs to be kept tidy. The front of the Maple Ballroom was also tidy but the side exposed to the road, still looks unsightly. The other Hall opposite the Garda station, and the filling station were both freshly painted. The Garda Station, L. Coyle's shop and the playing field also looked well. The freshly painted larger school, the other school with the red door and the Orange Hall, were also were attractively presented. It was particularly nice to see Campbell's freshly painted, and the plastic signs are the remaining issue with this focal building in the centre of the village. As stated last year, Rockcorry has a particular industrial heritage, which has left a number of distinctive buildings throughout the Village. Some of these attractive buildings are now derelict. The T.T.C. has once again shown imagination and hard work in tackling some of the interesting feature buildings in the village. The old building opposite the Orange Hall, has been tidied and the gravel and flowers were noted. It would be nice to paint the railings in front of the building as your next project. The clever use of colour and planting at the adjoining buildings is once again most praiseworthy. The Tea Pot Row Cottages look very well again this year, and I was looking forward to seeing the completed tableaux on the gable, and it did not disappoint. It looks very well and is a unique feature highlighting a historical / social aspect of the village. This

adjudicator was also pleased that last year's point regarding the screen fence at the back of these cottages was implemented, and some fast growing screening plants will enhance this screen further. Your continued interest in the developing the historical aspects of your village is admirable and this adjudicator wishes you ever success with the purchase of the property for your agricultural museum.

LANSCAPING

The T.T.C. continues to invest their time and efforts in the many landscape features throughout the village. Both the new and old landscapes features and the many new trees throughout the village and on the approach roads, were both well cared for, and once again were both beautifully and imaginatively presented. On the Newbliss approach road, the attractive sign looks well and the Pump House site with its maturing shrubs looks very well again this year, the Flax Hole was also nicely landscaped. The stone and brick planter on this road, was noted again this year, and demonstrates an awareness of using complementary materials to match the surrounding environment. The green area was once again very attractively presented, and provides a lovely splash of colour in the midst of all the stone buildings surrounding it. Last year's comment re the junction box was duly acted upon, and it, along with the pump were attractively painted this year. . Some attractive perennial beds, tubs, seats, trees, were noted in and on the way to the housing development, past Mc Cormicks. The Pipe flower features, the window boxes, hanging baskets and the varied floral features throughout the village were looked very well, adding some lovely colour to the whole streetscape. Particularly noteworthy again this year is the flower features in front of the derelict houses. Once again this adjudicator would like to recommend that the committee considers including more perennial planting in your landscape schemes, to provide colour and effect all year round. A lot of hard work again this year . Well done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your plans for the wildlife area will soon take shape in your original site, but there are other opportunities in the village for smaller projects. Open spaces /meadow areas, riversides, and hedgerows offer additional opportunities. Nesting boxes, wildflower areas, appropriate signs are also additional options. You have a small clean river by the entrance to the playing pitch, with some trees and meadow area adjoining. This area is also close to your proposed developments and could also be considered as an option for a wildlife area. Work with the local relevant authorities, schools and local wildlife experts to develop this important area.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter outside Mc Cormicks Grocery shop on the day of adjudication. Once again watch out for litter accumulating in alleys or open spaces in the village. Some litter was again evident in the small alley by the Orange Hall, and in the lane behind the Presbyterian Church. Your bins look well, but the committee and the community must remain vigilant in this important area of the competition.

TIDINESS

The Village generally looked both neat and tidy taking consideration of the few points mentioned above. The attractive landscaping and well maintained premises contributed to this impression. The committees imaginative work on the derelict houses opposite the Orange Hall, is commendable, with the fresh paint work, flowers and loose stone work looking very well. Remain conscious of keeping unsightly backyard areas, and alleyways tidy or screened with appropriate fences and gates. The gates past the Presbyterian Church on the Cootehill Road, still need some attention, and the pump house next to the Flax Hole also needs its paint refreshed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The enthusiasm of the committee has obviously been picked up by many of the residents and this is reflected in the many homes throughout the village and on the approach roads, that were very well presented. Tidy attractive hedges and lawns, flowers and hanging baskets, were all noted, as were the home owners who maintained flower features outside and around their properties. The new houses on the approach roads that have maintained the original hedging and built some complementary stone walls were admired. The housing development looked well, with some attractive landscaping. The old estate houses in the village also looked very well again this year.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All the approach roads looked very well, with attractive landscaping and tidy, well-maintained verges and hedges. The Newbliss road looks particularly well although a section of wall at the bridge needs to be repaired. The road surfaces remain in poor condition on some of the approach roads, in particular the Ballybay and Cootehill road. The new town sign on the Cootehill road has still to be completed. The wire fence, screening and new footpaths on the way up to the housing development will also look well on completion. The footpaths, lampposts, tidy stone walls and flower features enhance the centre of the village. The stone wall on the road out to the Garda Station is lovely and will be further enhanced when the footpath is completed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This adjudicator was looking forward to a return visit to Rockcorry, and was once again impressed with hard work and commitment of the Rockcorry Committee, and community in developing their attractive Village. The imaginative work on your derelict site is an example to many small communities who face similar problems in their areas. Your acknowledgement and development plans for the historical buildings in the village is most praiseworthy, and deserves every success. The previous adjudicator's comments in this area regarding funding and the idea of developing your cottages into self-catering accommodations as a means of fund raising for your future plans should still be considered. Once again an impressive performance, well done to everyone involved and good luck with your future plans.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/99)

Rockcorry looked quite magnificent on the afternoon and evening of second adjudication. Flower displays were in full bloom and their sheer numbers were stunning. Shrubberies and young trees are maturing well also, well done. Your treatment of derelict buildings is to be admired and we wish you well in your plans for their further development. We note with interest an application to the planning authority to develop eleven two-storey houses in the village centre, it is hoped that their design will be in keeping with the existing architectural features of the village. At the time of the second adjudication, the new entrance for the carpark to the sports grounds was in the course of construction. The new housing development looked well, however the road leading up to it badly needs to be resurfaced along some stretches. The village green looked quite magnificent as did incidental areas on approach roads. The Maple Ballroom was somewhat disappointing in its presentation. This is currently being used for commercial purposes, however it was not a serious problem. Graveyards are very well presented also.