

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **RATHVILLY**  
County : **CARLOW**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>247</b>

## **Rathvilly, County Carlow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The hard work and dedication of the Tidy Towns Committee in Rathvilly, has resulted in the village doing well in the competition. This year, by and large, you continue to maintain the standard achieved to date. At this stage it is suggested that you now draw up a plan to set out targets for the next three years at a minimum. This is needed in order to focus on the ultimate ambition of being in the shake up for the overall Tidiest Town. As an experienced committee you are well aware of the areas which need attention. Your enthusiasm and hard work knows no bounds and with focus and direction further advancement in the competition is foreseeable in the future.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The built environment continues to be maintained very well and this includes the church, the school – presented to the very highest standard, the post office, the credit union, the grotto, the Garda station and the Fr Ryan GAA Park. Some of the business premises need to be repainted. The Community Hall had paint coming off in a few places. The farm building, on the right, opposite the graveyard, needs work to bring it into line with the rest of the built environment. Also, the two houses opposite the Community Hall need work done to them so that the standard can be maintained and improved overall. Your ongoing work in revealing the natural stone is a very worthy one.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The trees, shrubs and plants in the open spaces throughout the village are very well maintained. At the entrance to Kevin Barry Avenue, a lovely selection of plants and shrubs have been put there and a new wooden railing sets it off very well. St Patrick's Park again, continued to be well maintained and the shrubs, trees and plants looked beautiful. The open space in front of Fr Cullen Terrace had not been replanted on the date of adjudication. However, the area appeared to be prepared for it. Most of the residents throughout the village have very well presented gardens and many have stunning displays of flowers, shrubs and plants. Many of the gardens would be small but they have created a big impact. Well done to the community for putting a lot of care, attention and maintenance into the presentation of the village.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You continue to handle the natural amenities under this

heading, including the riverbank, and hedgerows, very well. Perhaps at this stage you might try and identify the wildlife existing in these areas. It is noted that you intend to establish a wildflower meadow. It would need to be signposted and perhaps a noticeboard could be put up indicating the types of wild flowers sown in this area. Again, the wildlife habitat in the river area could be identified and perhaps a noticeboard erected naming the various species. Contact the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland who will have invaluable help to give you in this area.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The overall control of litter throughout Rathvilly is very good. Some small pieces of litter were evident in Fr Cullen Terrace and in Michael Collins Park. Your arrangements put in place for the prevention and control of litter are very good and it is also noted that you are working with Carlow County Council regarding a litter management plan.

## **TIDINESS**

The control of weeds at kerbs and footpaths is very good. However, extra care is needed in the housing estates and at the cemetery wall. The seating used in the open areas need to be repaired and painted. You might look at replacing them for next year. Encourage individual property owners to control weed growth at their kerbs.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There is very clear evidence that the residents of Rathvilly take great pride and care in having their properties presented beautifully. The stone cut houses in Fenian Street had wonderful displays of plants and flowers in their window boxes. Árd Mhuire and Woodgrove Avenue were presented to the very highest standard. Many people in the other residential areas, Fr Cullen Terrace and Michael Collins Park, make an excellent effort to have their properties looking well. The same applies to the residents of Kevin Barry Avenue who, with the exception of a few, take great pride in maintaining their properties to a good standard. Most individual houses make a very good effort and have their properties looking smart.

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

The presentation of the approach roads and streets is very good. The good maintenance of roads, streets and the bridge is central to the overall presentation of the village. Signage is clean and in good condition. As already mentioned, the seats throughout will need replacement or repair.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The efforts of your Tidy Towns Committee over the years have made what Rathvilly looks like today. Congratulations to an excellent community in continuing their interest and maintaining what has been done over the years to a high standard. Over the coming years an exceptional effort and a further push will be needed to be in or near the national award winners' enclosure. There is no doubt that Rathvilly has the ability and the community pride to do this in the years ahead.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (01/08/00)**

In order to gain significant extra marks for which Rathvilly has considerable potential you must draw up a action plan as previously referred to. Such a plan enables you as well as us to effectively measure progress. Nonetheless the village was for the most part again very well presented with floral displays abounding throughout the village centre. There is scope to extend this theme through the residential areas on the Tullow Road. A few notable buildings such as Halla Naomh Padraic and Phoenix Centre together with a disused building opposite by virtue of being shabby detracted from the high standards of others. Painting of the Rathvilly Inn was in progress. A little litter was noted here and there but in general the village had a tidy appearance.