

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHBARRY**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	45
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	257	256

Rathbarry, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your updated three year Action Plan document submitted with your Tidy Towns Application is a really excellent document, and is exactly what is required from Tidy Towns Committees. It is very clear in your objectives, and the village map was really useful. The idea of running local talks on the history of the area is an excellent concept. The adjudicator is most impressed with the fact that you are taking such a holistic approach to the Tidy Towns Competition. You are also adopting a very even approach to all aspects of the Competition; quite often this is not the case.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Caitheach and surrounding landscaped area was well presented. The idea of having replicas of the sculpture available for fund raising purposes is good. The Sprigging School project has been a success. The building itself has been excellently restored, and the surrounding area also looks very well. Inside this small building the information panels of local interest are simply but effectively presented. The expanded and re-organised Museum is highly interesting and helps to further set Rathbarry in its historical context. Well done to the individual who assisted with the provision of public toilet facilities, frequently missing from Irish towns and villages. The problem property remains and hopefully this difficulty can be overcome as it is the only building in the village which has not been integrated with your overall plans for Rathbarry. The Church, grounds and Graveyard were all extremely well presented. At the Church the red guttering though unusual, is very effective. The simple screening of the oil tank has been effective. The removal of the plastic sign from the pub makes a big difference and the owner deserves thanks for his initiative.

LANDSCAPING

The planting of new trees is noted, as is the work at the "Big Wood". On the Rosscarbery approach road the landscaped area with the farm machinery and plaques looked really well. Indeed this is really a landscaped outdoor Museum. The Roses here create a great splash of colour. Bark creates a very neat appearance. The Beech hedge opposite the Church is coming along very well and is being excellently maintained. The landscaped area at the Dan O'Leary plaque again was excellently presented and the grass here as everywhere is being extremely well maintained. Work was noted on the embankment below the Church, and the bird information board here is most interesting. The car park at this point is well maintained and the table and seats are a nice touch. Car

parking areas by the public house were well presented. Gairdin na Mona is a new development which looked well on adjudication day. The landscaped area on the Ardfield road again created an impressive focus point for the entry to the village from that direction.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The village and surrounding woodland and water areas are a paradise for wildlife and you have integrated the wildlife aspect of the Competition fully into your present plans and those for the future. The Lake Walk project though very ambitious will provide an excellent future amenity. The involvement of Duchas in the Kilkerran Wetlands project is also noted. The river area in the village was once again excellently presented.

LITTER CONTROL

On adjudication day litter control was outstanding, and the adjudicator noted just five pieces of litter in the whole village. Once again well done on your achievement under this heading.

TIDINESS

Your attention to anti-flyposting is most effective. Apart from the problem property mentioned earlier in this Report, the village has no untidy areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All private houses were excellently presented, and the standard of private landscaping was excellent. Each house fits into the village environment extremely well, and this is quite unusual in Irish villages.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads were presented in an outstanding manner. The approach from Rosscarbery has fine old stone walls, trees and an overall welcoming approach. On the Clonakilty road the fine stone walls are an impressive feature. The road from Ardfield was also most impressive, with well kept grass verges, small fuchsia hedging and well kept sloping banks.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It was a real pleasure for your adjudicator to carry out the adjudication for Rathbarry. Do make sure that in the future you do not make the village too "pretty". The environment and fabric of the village is very strong and this speaks for itself.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (09/08/00)

Rathbarry, as ever, looked extremely well loved on a warm August second adjudication day. The Tidy Town Committee's updated development plan is most helpful for adjudication purposes. The adjudicator approached the village from a most interesting direction through Castlefreake Woods from Rosscarbery. The montbretia at stone walls to road sides looked marvellous. The centre village area with their neatly cut grass verges and beautifully presented displays looked extremely well. It cannot be too highly stressed that it is important, especially in a village as small as this, to resist the temptation to "gild the lily" by over prettifying Rathbarry.