

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROCHESTOWN**
County : **CORK**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	26
Litter Control	40	27	29
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	198	199

Rochestown, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The material received with the application form was very helpful and the photographs especially helped to give a very good understanding of the projects in hand. The railway platform and line passage are particularly interesting projects. A disused railway line is used very successfully in Clonmel as a wildlife walk and would be interesting to visit. The four year plan will guide your objectives and allow you monitor the progress and maybe adjust the plan where necessary.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The railway platform restoration is an imaginative project and the exposure of the brickwork is marvellous. Each step of advancement of this project is very valuable and when complete will be a fine asset in Rochestown. The bridge is very attractive with its natural stone composition. New footpaths have been put in place and these give a very satisfactory pavement, which is important with such volume of fast moving traffic passing by. A footpath on Monastery road is really essential. The wall along the road towards the Hop Island is valuable and worth having well treated. The old gatelodge is such a lovely building it would be great to restore/rebuild this. The signs opposite the pub are in poor condition.

LANDSCAPING

The various landscaping projects are progressing. The elongated roadside shrub planting on approach to the petrol station is very satisfactory and has a great deal of shrubs present. The carpark area is temporarily disrupted with works taking place. The greens – especially at the riverside are very attractive taking advantage of the beautiful river and bridge. The greens provide a nice calmness to the village and give an identity to the place. The Bord Gais building must be lived with and the landscape work with the dense planting of trees on the mound alleviates the effects of the building. Individual houses and gardens in the neighbourhood play a very significant role in the overall appearance of the landscape and great credit is due to all who make the most of their space. The committee's work of promoting such activities is commendable too. The container plantings add sparkle of colour to the scene.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Interesting wildlife opportunities exist in Rochestown – the

waterfront, riverside, railway track line, pond area and your wild flower garden project. These need careful management as with such rampant thistles, ragwort, nettles and old mans beard (*Clematis vitalba*) these could predominate at the expense of the less aggressive wild plants. At the pond area it is difficult to gain entry and to utilise this area in a way that would be enjoyed as a wildlife habitat. Informative materials will be helpful in the future relating to these areas.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was present in a number of places and obviously is causing a problem. Litter from cars and being carried on the water is probably a contributory cause. The cleanups organised are very useful ways of dealing with this . At such cleanups it is important that litter that is concealed under hedges and vegetation is cleared otherwise this can be a source later when it becomes blown about.

TIDINESS

The greens give the village a very tidy look. However the work at the carpark, the old lodge and parking area directly opposite the pub had a less than tidy appearance. The gate from the main road into the pond area was open a little and some dumping had taken place there.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a lovely selection of residential areas, which take great care of their immediate environment. The apartments are well treated. Thornbury estate is very good and several people were noted working on their gardens at adjudication. Every individual who looks after his garden and surrounds whether or not they belong to any committee, contributes greatly to the overall effect of the landscape. Estates such as the Oval, Charlemont Heights are also pleasantly treated.

ROADS,STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The new road surface is well done and gives a cared-for appearance. The new footpaths are very welcome. It would be very useful to have spaces for carparking at the entrance to Hop Island. With a solid white line in the centre of the road it is illegal to park along the road. The traffic moves too fast on approach to Rochestown and your committee should pressurise for improved road safety at the village . The need for a footpath at Monastery road was already mentioned above.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Developing a tidy towns project within the district of a large city such as Rochestown is a commendable action. The same type of cohesion may not apply among residents as would in a

small town or village. The work to date is impressive and the plans imaginative and worth looking forward to their achievement.