

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROCKCHAPEL**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	17	16
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	170	167

Rockchapel, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

As was suggested last year it is advisable at this stage to develop a three-year plan based on all the aspects of Rockchapel that could benefit from improvements. This could include plans for wildlife feature developments and any other local issue. A plan enables people to stand back from their work and see the big picture then formulate ideas followed by such basic questions as - What to do? Where? When? How and by whom?

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings in the village were well presented. The post office and surrounding wall is attractively painted, The cemetery would benefit from painting. The church and surrounding carpark looks well with their stonework. Paddy Molys is well presented although some litter outside was noted. The memorial is a nice feature – some weeds within the enclosure and the railings needing attention were detractions. The community centre is a fine facility for the village. The school is well painted. The concrete post and rail fence to its front maybe could be eliminated, in time. If a hawthorn hedge were set beside it this would be helpful. The Heritage centre is a good acquisition and the stone work used looks very well. The state of the old farm building in view on coming down from the school offers an opportunity.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping refers to all possible areas within the village that offer scope for landscaping. The individual gardens of the village and surrounds have much to offer and every individual caring for his own garden contributes in this respect. The area at the school offers possibilities with the large expanse of space. The grotto is in need of weeding. The green at the housing estate offers possibilities and it is pity to see such a fine space unkempt. At the community centre there has been some severe weed killing done also at the service bridge. This approach is both unattractive and destructive of life. The two monkey-puzzle trees in the village are a nice feature. A tree planting opportunity exists on the inside of the wall on the corner site at the bottom of the school road.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A walkway from the community centre emerging at the cemetery and possibly going along behind the community centre towards the church would be a lovely feature both as a pleasant walk and as a wildlife feature.

LITTER CONTROL

Some litter was noted along the wall outside the cemetery and also within the village . Good litter control requires constant vigilance and the cooperation of all.

TIDINESS

The centre of the village has a tidy aspect but improvements would be welcome in the standard of surface weed control in the community care centre and outside the cemetery. The road to the school is rough and unfinished at the bank by the footpath. With the lovely stone used around the village it is a pity to see a concrete block wall opposite the post office – perhaps it is the intention to face this with stone in the future.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual gardens look well and credit is due to those people who labour away quietly at their gardens and thereby benefit the whole community by their silent efforts. New housing offers possibilities for new landscaping. It is important the builders finish off buildings well and the committee should keep a watchful eye on such developments – the school for example needs some finish to the footpath and bank on the approach to it.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

This village nestles in a valley surrounded by hills and luxuriant vegetation. It is right that entrances should not destroy the natural beauty of the hedgerows by manicuring. In this respect Rockchapel is doing well. The road up around the housing estate is very rough and needs attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a good impression and evidence of work and commitment to improve the surrounds. Hopefully more can be made with the river as it can be seen at very few points in the village yet it is so near.