

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHANGAN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	41
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	24
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	231	222

Rathangan, County Kildare.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The detailed map, comprehensive 3 year plan and other documentation provided with your entry form was most informative. The photographs enclosed were very helpful. The strong partnership approach you have established with the County Council, local businesses and residents groups is apparent in the steadily improving appearance of Rathangan. The committee must be commended on the good work carried out to date.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The majority of business premises in the town are well presented, but a few need to be painted. The village renewal work carried out at the Square, with new paving and bollards in place, looks very well. Some additional landscaping here should be considered, to make this area more of a focal point for the town centre. The undergrounding of cables and overhead wires in the long term would have a very positive effect. The church and schools are well maintained, but as noted last year, the church carpark although very tidy, remains somewhat severe. The Old Boys School is in need of some attention, despite the commendable efforts of your local artists. Some suitable signposting to the towns amenities, e.g. Tannery Park & The Grand Canal, would be of value to visitors.

LANDSCAPING

The green at the top of Main Street, bounded on one side by elegant Georgian Houses is attractively presented. One of the flowerbeds to the front is in need of attention. Your ongoing tree planting programme is of immense value. The spacious greens of Tannery Park, the well cut banks of the Grand Canal and the pleasant river walk, offer a range of amenity areas to be enjoyed. The provision of seating and picnic tables in Tannery Park has further enhanced this valuable facility. The new cherry trees and pergola were noted. You might consider providing some litter bins near the picnic areas, as sweet papers were seen scattered around. Are there plans to screen off the new housing development behind the park ? The wire fence at Drummonds should be screened off with creepers or other plants.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Rathangan has an abundance of rich wildlife habitats. Tannery Park, The Grand Canal, the River Slate, and the

Rath are all important for wildlife and your study of the habitats and species in these areas is very impressive. The provision of an information board to share your knowledge would be of value. It is good to see that the local schoolchildren are involved in various environmental projects, bulb planting etc. Your focus on making amenities wheelchair accessible is very important. Signposting of the walk from the Girls School along the river and through the park to the canal should be considered.

LITTER CONTROL

Some litter was noted along Main Street and New Street and in the Park as mentioned above. You should try to remove any large items that are dumped into the river, such as the traffic cones seen near the bridge.

TIDINESS

Rathangan has a generally tidy appearance. The re-cycling bins have been moved to the back of the church car park following last years suggestion, which is a better location. Effective weed control and good paving contribute to the tidy impression.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Your work in assisting the local residents associations is commendable and seems to be having an impact, as the majority of houses in the village are presented to a high standard. The Georgian Houses along the Main Street are an impressive feature of the small town centre. Ard Mhuire, with its fine new stone wall is very well presented. The new trees on the green at the Crescent were noted. The surface of the road in this small estate needs to be upgraded. Tannery Wharf looks like a promising new development. Spencer Court is beautifully presented with fine gardens. Residences in some of the back areas, e.g. Bourne Lane and Annsboro, need to pay attention to painting boundary walls and fences.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The various approach roads to the town are in good condition and the new footpaths and paving in the Village Square create a very favourable impression, on entering the town. The Rathangan name sign on the Clonbullogue Road, and some of the other directional and safety signage needs to be cleaned. The new surfaces at the Boys School and at the Church carpark are very neat and tidy. Surfaces at the entrance to the Medical Centre/Credit Union need to be upgraded. The road surface and footpaths in New Street do not seem to be as well maintained as in other parts of the town. The surface of the parking area in front of the school playing field requires some attention. Brendan Conlon &

Sons need to paint or screen off their fence on the Lock Road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rathangan is an interesting town to visit, with wonderful natural amenities. The hard work of your committee along with local community support, is bringing these natural advantages to the fore. With the continued dedication and imagination of the Tidy Towns Committee you should make great progress in the years ahead.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/00)

It was a real pleasure to revisit Rathangan after many years. The town has improved enormously, and has also improved significantly since last year's adjudicator's report. What is most important is that the traditional urban character has been retained alongside new development, and, furthermore, that the interest in and conservation of the surrounding natural environment is an influential factor. Thank you for the photographs, especially those which show what the woodlands, canal-banks, etc, look like at other times of the year. Litter control seemed better than earlier in the summer. The extensive car park at the R.C. Church is rather bleak – would a narrow shrubbery alongside the road backed by a hedge or stone wall, with 'Entrance' and 'Exit' at either end, help to take the sense of vacancy off it? This adjudicator was particularly pleased to see the memorial to Maura Laverty in its well-tended garden setting. Congratulations on a genuinely comprehensive entry backed by good taste and understanding of the issues.