

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RHODE**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	14
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	210	208

Rhode, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed application. Rhode was originally a small crossroads village; however, the recent increase in residential developments have made it a much larger settlement bringing new challenges and opportunities. Residential developments have been well appointed and finished to a high standard and the entire village has an overall appearance of spaciousness and quality landscaping. It is good to note that there is so much support locally for the Tidy Towns group, it is also good to note that you have included the school in the competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The school looked well but the backboards of the basketball nets need to be refurbished together with the posts. The murals on the window apertures of the hall are a nice touch. Mulvins looks particularly well with its attractive colour scheme. Most properties in the village are presented well, some just need a little painting, for example the Criostoir O' Floinn fascia board needs to be repainted and the post for the petrol sign at the Rhode Superstore could be refurbished. Try to discourage plastic neon fascia signs like the Take-Away and the beer sign on pubs. The church looks well. Congratulations on the development of the new community centre. It is good to note the landscaped sections at such an early stage of its development. The style of the gate pillars is reminiscent of the old style field gates, well done.

LANDSCAPING

The young trees on the Portarlinton approach are maturing nicely. Your landscaping activities have paid dividends, the village and its immediate environs, e.g. approach roads has a well cared for appearance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your wildlife project has been noted and is being considered for the wildlife award. The hedgerow on the Edenderry road seems to be well managed, perhaps a habitat survey or a species count could be done to indicate the wildlife present. The entrance to the GAA grounds looks well, perhaps the boundary walls might be planted with an ivy. The gates here are very attractive and the roadside green verge is being well maintained.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was good overall, however there was a slight scattering of litter in the school grounds, particularly inside the gate marking the entrance to the wildlife area. Well done on maintaining such a high standard for yet another year.

TIDINESS

The yards of the large vehicle repair premises at the top of the Mullingar road look quite untidy. These should be screened from public view. An otherwise good presentation under this heading.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Some roadside areas to boundary walls of residential properties on the Portarlinton approach are very underdeveloped. Some nameplates need to either be provided or refurbished for residential developments, e.g. the Laurancetown Estate needs to be refurbished and a nearby estate needed to have its nameplate replaced. The new residential development of single storey dwellings is very attractive and the colour scheme here will be a nice touch. New housing developments are being finished to a good standard, particularly the Priory Lawn development.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The nameplate located across from the school needs to be straightened. The neat grass verge and semi-mature trees together with neat hedgerow to the roadside of residential properties on the Mullingar end of the town create a very good first impression of Rhode. The nameplate on the Mullingar entrance to the village was very dirty. More of the walls marking the approach and entrance from the Edenderry road should be revealed by cutting back some of the growth. Two field entrances near the nameplate on the Tyrellspass road could be upgraded as this marks the entrance into the village from this road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rhode is a small 'crossroads' village in a setting of lush pastureland, with scenic views of surrounding countryside. It still retains its rural character in the face of the substantial increase in residential developments.