

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **RATHWIRE**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>164</b>

## **Rathwire, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Rathwire is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. The village has changed a lot in the few years since this adjudicator has last visited. The majority of changes have enhanced the visual amenity value of Rathwire and the on-going residential development should add a new life to the village. The difficulty of achieving a high standard of presentation with so much building work on-going is appreciated and allowances have been made for this.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Most buildings are presented to a good standard. 'Jimmys Bar' looks well as does the adjoining shop. The other bar appears to be closed down. Is it due for redevelopment? The old church looks well as does its carpark. The hall needs to be refurbished and its forecourt area developed. The nursing home and grounds look well, the grounds are nicely landscaped and the gateway is quite stately.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaped traffic island looks well, although a little more attention is necessary here. When planting do choose indigenous species to encourage wildlife.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The roadside verge along the road on which the school is located could be managed better for a more abundant display of wild flowers. The boundary wall of the graveyard could be cleaned or painted and weed growth removed from the base of the wall and the kerb. These have been sprayed and look quite unsightly. There are many stretches of hedgerow / field boundaries on approach roads and throughout the village and these are probably of great value to wildlife. Perhaps a habitat survey could be undertaken to identify existing wildlife and steps taken for wildlife conservation.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was improved on last year's standard. Do keep us informed of your activities under this heading.

### **TIDINESS**

It was with great surprise that the adjudicator noted the untidy entrance to Rathwire from the South (via the diversion route). The 'Welcome to Rathwire' sign was down and casually thrown in a hedgerow. Some litter was in evidence, but the

biggest problem was the extent of the sprayed weeds along the kerb and of the footpath. This created a very poor impression and the adjudicator was surprised to find so much that was pleasant about Rathwire, given this poor introduction. Other stretches of road leading into the village have a similar problem although not to the same extent. Ensure that all traces of building materials are removed when construction work has ceased. Building materials, rubble etc. was noted on grass verges and this should not be allowed to pertain.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The new housing development, (not yet completed) located on the south-east entrance just before the school looks exceptionally well, no doubt its roadside edge will be finished to a high standard upon completion. The school and its grounds looked well although its carpark could be better surfaced. Many roadside boundary walls need to be upgraded and almost all roadside areas to boundary wall are in need of attention.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Many road signs need to be refurbished together with some litter bins. Some stretches of footpath have yet to be resurfaced and many stretches of roadside edge are uneven / potholed.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression is one of a village with great potential. It is anticipated when construction work has ceased that this potential will begin to be realised.