

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ROCHFORTBRIDGE**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	33	10
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	30
Litter Control	40	24	21
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>183</b>

## **Rochfortbridge, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Rochfortbridge is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. Thank you for your completed application and details. Rochfortbridge is a linear village located on a national primary route and the difficulties presented by constant traffic, e.g. noise, dust, pollution and so on, are understood and acknowledged. However, the committee seems to have risen to the challenge as is evidenced by the landscaping in the village which has been effective in reducing the adverse impact of traffic. Well done! Other difficulties presented by on-going residential development have put a stop to any new Tidy Towns work, however it is important that you maintain the standards that have been achieved. We note that you were disappointed in your marks last year. You will probably be surprised at a significant increase this year, which has been achieved by the maturation of landscaped areas and the impact this has had in the overall villagescape, well done! Good luck with your project.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The 'M. Cooney Garage' premises is still awaiting improvement to its roadside façade and the vehicle repair premises on the Dalystown road just inside the nameplate presents a visual problem also to an otherwise excellent presentation at this entrance to Rochfortbridge. Both the school and the church here are beautifully presented, as of course is the graveyard. The area around the Truckers Rest Restaurant looks as bad as ever.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The firethorn planted to the wire mesh boundary of the GMS Windows Ltd. property is most effective in creating a welcome splash of colour and also for creating greater enclosure here. Well done on your numerous landscaped areas and shrubberies and indeed on your small park at the top of the Rhode road.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Hedgerows are a valuable amenity and are important to wildlife. Perhaps a wildlife survey or a species count could be done of hedgerow. You could also identify the wildlife attracted by your trees and shrubs in the village centre. All of these are valuable natural amenities. Well done on the extensive planting of hawthorn hedgerow along the concrete post fencing out the Athlone road. A species count could also be done of the herbage under the stand of mature trees lining

the road across from the Castle Park residential development.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

A litter bin at the top of the Dalystown road was full and just beginning to overflow, perhaps more regular collections are necessary. The village seems to have plenty of litter bins although a few of these need to be refurbished. Some scraps of litter were noted out the Mullingar road. A good overall presentation.

### **TIDINESS**

Derelict / vacant buildings continue to present a problem but not a major one. Given the increase in property values, this problem may be resolved sooner than might have been anticipated.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

New residential developments in the course of construction appear to be well appointed and no doubt will be finished to a high standard and will complement the social life of the village as well as the built environment. Perhaps the Castle Park residential development could feature a co-ordinated colour scheme. Derrycreeagh Park is a beautiful development. The entrance to it is a little disappointing with the weed growth along footpaths. Well done on both litter control and the maintenance of green areas here. 'The Sycamores' has been finished to a good standard.

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

The water pump across the road from the credit union could be refurbished. We appreciate the difficulties being experienced by ongoing development and understand your postponement of future plans. However you are obviously aware of the importance of maintaining standards already achieved.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression of Rochfortbridge is extremely favourable. We look forward to the culmination of your park project.