

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHVILLY**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	250	248

Rathvilly, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your map, entry form and comprehensive plan for the next three years. You have approximately seventeen organisations active in the local community and all those organisations work for the good of the village. The development of the river is a big project and certainly requires a lot of energy and commitment. It is gratifying to read that you still continue to receive the support of the Local Authority, FAS and the wider community. Again this year you continue to maintain the standard achieved over the last number of years. You have tremendous experience of what it takes to do well in a competition of this kind. The plan will help you to focus on the work to be completed. You have a hard core of twelve on your Committee who continue to show great enthusiasm and throw their weight wholeheartedly into doing even better in this competition in the years ahead.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public buildings continue to be well presented. The church again this year looks extremely well and the new roses, when in flower, will further enhance this area. The grotto again, is well maintained and the plants there looked very nice. The Community Hall, Post Office and Credit Union again are presented to a very good standard. The planting of creepers at the walls of the GAA pitch will certainly enhance this whole area and they are coming along very well. Some of the walls will need touching up here. The graveyard continues to be maintained well but the weeds need to be removed from one wall. The Health Centre will need the boundary walls to be repainted. As last year, the farm building near the graveyard needs work done to it so that the overall presentation can be improved. The tennis courts are well maintained but the seat on the outside should be painted.

LANDSCAPING

Very hard work is put in to the maintenance of the green, open green spaces, trees and plants throughout the village. As already mentioned roses planted at the railing in front of the church will certainly enhance this area. It does require a lot of hard work in looking after the trees, shrubs and the planting of the green. There is a wonderful selection of shrubs and the yellow rose bed looks stunning. The open green spaces in the residential areas again are maintained in very good condition. The grass is neat and tidy and all shrubs and trees are very well maintained. The entrance to Kevin Barry Road does need attention with some tidying up to be done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

When the riverbank is being developed, the preservation and enhancement of wild life here should receive serious consideration and planning. You have an important role to play in protecting and increasing the appreciation of wild life in your community. Awareness of the importance of hedgerows has increased and they are vital habitats for many of the wild plants, birds and animals in your area. There is an opportunity for you to survey the area on the ground and find out what exists at the present time. The information you collect will add to a valuable record of the changing landscaping of your locality.

LITTER CONTROL

A great effort is put in by the community in their vigilance to keep litter to a minimum. A few pieces were observed at the entrance to the GAA Grounds and also on the road to the graveyard at the town end. It continues to be a very important part of the competition and needs constant monitoring. Your overall plan for the control of litter is working very well.

TIDINESS

The overall control of weeds at the base of walls and kerbs is very good throughout. Again vigilance is necessary in Fr Cullen Park and also outside the walls of the graveyard. Continue to encourage individual property owners to look after the weed control on the kerbs. The recycling facilities are suitably located, were maintained in good condition and were tidy and clean.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of presentation overall is extremely good. The bungalows in St Patrick's Park look extremely well and the houses opposite on the street have some delightful displays of flowers. The new houses being constructed should be finished to a high standard and, no doubt, the landscaping plans for it will be of a high standard. Some of the properties in Kevin Barry Road are maintained and presented to a very high standard but others need attention. Perhaps some guidance and assistance could be given to them by the Committee. I note from your plan that work is to begin on a development project for Fr Cullen Terrace. This should certainly enhance this area. Many of the residents make a tremendous effort in having their places looking smart and clean. Others need encouragement and perhaps help from the Committee to improve their overall presentation. The railings to the front do need painting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads are neat and tidy. The surfaces on the streets are very good. All signage throughout in good condition and clean. Again the presentation of the bridge is very good. The seating throughout does need to be repaired and painted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As already mentioned you have a tremendous community spirit and this has contributed to the way in which your town has presented. The hard work done over the years and being done to-day has made it what it is. You are in the premier league of this competition where additional marks will be more difficult to achieve and the scrutiny more exacting. By focusing on your plan for the next three years, and, with attention to detail further progress should be made. Again, well done to an exceptional community for their hard working tremendous effort being put in for this competition.

SECOND ROUND (29/07/01)

Rathvilly was a pleasure to revisit for the second adjudication. The rose displays were stunning in this presentation. Stands of mature trees are impressive and younger trees are becoming well established. Your landscaping programme could be extended to incorporate the green roadside verge to Father Cullen Terrace and come green areas within the estate. Woodgrove estate looks well and no doubt the Slaney Bank Housing Development will complement existing standards. Kerbs along the entrance from the N81 were weedy and the 'Bronze Medal' nameplate was overgrown at its base. Litter control was very good and the recycling point tidy. Halla Naomh Pdraig should be brought to the same standard as the Phoenix Centre.