

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **RUAN**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	6	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>191</b>

## Ruan, Co. Clare

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the completed application form and map with proposals indicated. Ruan is a simple rural village with a most interesting silhouette when approaching the village from a distance. The five-year plan is in hand and it is obvious that co-operation continues with FAS, Eircom, Shannon Development and Clare Co. Co. The village is already benefiting from the improvements. Care must be taken that these rural features are respected and that the surrounding countryside is further incorporated. This is particularly so in the case of stone walls which are a traditional form of enclosure and that their method of construction is not lost to a non-skilled approach.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Business premises and public buildings are well presented. The church is charming with its very unusual spire. Some derelict houses have been painted and this adds considerably to the village where there is generally a problem that can reduce the character of the village. An exhibition of old farm equipment has potential and should be worked on; it was good to see the simplicity of the presentation. The Delcassion Ruan looks well. One important comment by the adjudicators is that the construction of the new stone walls, which are being built in different parts of the village, must receive special care to detailing. There are some very fine examples of beautiful walls in this locality. These older walls should be used as examples of how new walls should be constructed and treated. Concrete slurry should not be used on the tops. The wall on the Tubber Road was particularly disappointing. The wall to the GAA grounds should be faced in local stone following traditional appearance. Elsewhere where concrete block walls have been used, these should also be stone faced. It is important the villages like Ruan preserve their old traditions. Weathered field stone should be used rather than quarry rock which has been employed in some of the recent walls.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping in the church was good and it was an unusual event to see that the overhead wires were not directly in front of the Church (in this case they are on the opposite side of the road and do not interfere with views of the church). This overhead line does have its impact later on when it cuts across the several curved grass spaces on the Tooremore road and does impact on tree crowns, this should be addressed as the long term consequences will interfere with the trees. The little park with its sculpture of a cow being milked is delightful and had many well detailed features. There

was a problem gaining access to the park as the ground cover of flowers were growing directly over the paths. The chessboard was a creative item and the sculpture very fine. The trees here seem to be of native selection, this is good. Native trees should be planted where ever possible, reflecting the very fine countryside around the village. Consideration should be given to replacing some prunus type trees (Cherrys) with something more akin to the countryside. Seek advice from the Tree Council of Ireland or Coillte in this area.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Ruan's rural environment is itself a natural habitat for many flora and fauna and by continuing to plant native trees such as ash, rowan and thorn, there will be benefits throughout the seasons. It is important to recognise the winter environment when selecting plants and such trees, as the native Scot's pine will harbour ladybirds which are good for insect control.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was no litter in evidence on the day of adjudication. The GAA grounds were litter free but unfortunately this good appearance was ruined by the surrounding concrete block wall.

## **TIDINESS**

Once again this year here was an air of tidiness throughout the village. The use of the potted plants at the junction are just one element where the detail consideration and attention to detail ensures this tidy character.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

All housing presented a very good image, being well maintained and nicely painted.

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

All roads were in good order, though road markings could be tackled, thus get the local Authority onto the case. The road to the national school is being repaired. This should make a big difference to the residences adjoining.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ruan has a very interesting silhouette when approaching and the village lives up to this impression. The unusual strong theme of natural stone walls is very distinctive and extends way out of the village environment. Entry to the village is charming and the memorial grave beside the road when entering from Ennis is only a single element in the many interesting features belonging to the town.