

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RAPHOE**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	32
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	11
Litter Control	40	28	24
Tidiness	20	12	9
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	202	178

Raphoe, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your excellent submission, particularly the map. Congratulations on the historic research and photographic exhibition of the town, this will help foster great community spirit. Raphoe is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. The sight of the tower of St. Eunan's from the Convoy road signals a welcome to the travelling public. The Junior Tidy Towns Committee are to be congratulated on their activities.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment of Raphoe boasts many fine examples of Georgian and Victorian architecture and many historic and ecclesiastical buildings. This gives Raphoe a strong heritage which is not complemented by plastic neon signs and buildings in need of cleaning and/ or painting. Coyles Supermarket and Bar was nicely painted together with many others in the Diamond. The comprehensive school and grounds and roadside bus parking area are presented to a high standard. The Livestock Mart and its car parking area were presented to a reasonable standard.

LANDSCAPING

Congratulations on your Green Town status, it is well deserved. The green areas of the Diamond with their mature, semi-mature and young trees together with rose beds and shrubberies, create a magnificent visual impact in the town centre. Other green areas were equally well presented. The grounds of the central school looked well also. Mature Yew trees at several locations around the town are wonderful landmarks.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The well-managed hedgerow out the Lifford road must be a valuable wildlife habitat. Old walls with their wildflower and fern habitat are not gone unnoticed either. There is a strong awareness of the variety of habitats associated with woods, forest, river, marsh and old rail lines. The wildlife walks to these places assisted by the wildlife information brochure designed by the Raphoe Youth Project are commendable and are being considered for the Wildlife Award.

LITTER CONTROL

Well done on the Junior Tidy Towns litter survey. This is a grand achievement and one that will heighten awareness of the problems associated with litter. The Tidy Town murals in the back area by 'Sheeplane' were admired and should

achieve their objective. Some kerbside litter was noted at Hairport.

TIDINESS

The recycling point at the petrol station is very tidy and doing its job nicely. The site opposite Henderson's garage could be improved under this heading. The overall appearance was one of tidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The presentation of Beechwood Avenue was excellent, the new development on the Castlefinn road will hopefully be presented to a similar high standard. Town houses are also well presented, a co-ordinated colour scheme might be considered for some terraces. Some boundary walls need improving, e.g. painting or whitewashing.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Supervalu nameplates look well and approach roads are generally well presented. The black and gold street furniture was admired and the lampstandards looked exceptionally well. It was a pleasure to note the wirescape free Diamond. Footpaths are being nicely maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Raphoe is a town with a strong cultural heritage which is beautifully complemented by a well cared for natural and physical environment.