

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RAHEEN**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	176	174

Raheen, Co. Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Raheen is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for your submission. Raheen is a lovely village in a rural setting, with panoramic views both into and out of the village. The gentle rise and curve of its main street is an attractive feature. You have not submitted a work programme or development plan with this year's application. It is difficult to progress in the competition without one. Do try to send one in for next year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The school and church look quite well. Some business signs were inappropriate both in size and in presentation. They were too large and poorly presented.

LANDSCAPING

The Mass Rock memorial, Carraig an Aifrinn, is a fine monument, its presentation would be enhanced further with permanent planting and with the elimination of weed growth to its roadside edge and around its side areas. The concrete post fencing beside the Carraig an Aifrinn monument should be cleared of long grass and planted with either hawthorn hedgerow or a flowering wild hedgerow. Stands of mature trees look well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Hawthorn hedgerow which runs for a long stretch in the village is a valuable wildlife habitat. The same might be set for the wild flowering hedgerow on the opposite side. The C.L.G. Coillte entrance looks quite well but it may need to be painted for next year. The graveyard appears to be reasonably well maintained, however a mound of earth just inside the gate might be removed to good effect.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was good. Litter bins were not noted. Do send us in details of your litter management programme as you are marked for this in addition to the presence or absence of litter.

TIDINESS

Weed growth at the roadside edge of the church car park presents a problem. A greater variety of container plants would be a good idea at this location. The farm yard entrance across from the C.L.G. Coillte entrance is unfortunate for the village in its current state. The large plastic sign should be removed from the small shop as it is in a poor state of repair and it is inappropriate in size and character.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties are mainly single storey, traditional style properties and most are well presented. The fine display of roses in one, just across from the entrance to the sports ground was much admired. Two storey houses are well presented also.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The stone wall would be worth restoring at one entrance to the village (near the Mass Rock Memorial). Weeds appear to have been sprayed along the footpath but were not subsequently removed and so look quite ugly. The Eamon A Cnoic premises looks well, perhaps a feature to its roadside edge would give a greater sense of enclosure to the car park here. At one end of the village the nameplate is obscured with the high grass. This should be rectified. Wirescape is visually obtrusive for a village of this size. Stands of mature and semi-mature trees lining both entrances to the village catch the eye and gently lead the traveller into the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A good overall presentation.