

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHENISKA**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-06-2001

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2001 | Mark Awarded 2000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 35 | -- |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 26 | -- |
| Landscaping | 40 | 24 | -- |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 18 | -- |
| Litter Control | 40 | 24 | -- |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | -- |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 18 | -- |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 28 | -- |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | -- |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 194 | -- |

Ratheniska, Co. Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ratheniska is very welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Your rural village is a pleasure to adjudicate and the standard throughout was extremely high. The community are obviously deeply committed to their environment and, of course, to the community. Thank you for details of your plan, we look forward to seeing your progress over the next few years. Perhaps next year you might give more information on the 'Dysart Enos' church and graveyard that you intend to restore. The adjudicator could not gain access.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

All buildings in the community are well presented and the installation of wheelchair facilities in the Community Hall is admirable and, of course, will be appreciated by those who need them.

LANDSCAPING

Tree planting around the area looks very well and the small 'Well' feature at the name stone on the Portlaoise approach road was much admired. Young trees were maturing well and mature trees look quite stately. You note in your plan that you intend to plant specimen trees. Ensure that these are of the native variety rather than exotics.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Congratulations on the standard of presentation of the sports grounds, every one concerned here is to be complemented. We look forward to the completion of the Club House. You might conduct a wildlife survey identifying different wildlife habitats and wildlife zones and identify threats to wildlife and steps to be taken to protect and conserve. A hedgerow habitat and a species count would be appropriate. A stretch of hedgerow out the Portlaoise end of the village features bare earth and needs to be reinstated.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good, well done. However under this heading you need to give details of how you achieve your standards of litter control, what activities you undertake and what arrangements are in place to maintain this standard outside of the judging period.

TIDINESS

The village has an overall ambience of tidiness. Some building materials were noted in a corner on a verge near the junction for the Stradbally road. These should be removed. Watch out for weed growth along the base of

walls, etc. and be vigilant regarding curtilage areas to properties.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties were neatly presented and some gardens were admired. Remind householders of the importance of the appearance of their boundary walls.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The carparks both at the sports grounds and across from the church and graveyard are beautifully surfaced and are being well maintained. Well done! The small stone nameplates are very tasteful and are a credit to the community. The shrine located just across from the church in the centre of the village is presented to the highest standard and was a pleasure to behold.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ratheniska is a rural village with a peaceful ambience and is a pleasure to visit. Thank you for your suggestion regarding a rural village category, it will be discussed at the next adjudicators meeting.