

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROCKCORRY VILLAGE**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	13
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	222	215

Rockcorry, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The inclusion of your plan and the series of photographs well illustrates the work of the tidy towns committee. The three year plan forms an exciting ambition for an already very attractive village. Your committee of 12 is a very strong one and results are very evident.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The churches form a dominating feature on the buildings front and are very nicely included in the landscape forming one of the focal point in the village. The characteristic stone brick and slate buildings give a great atmosphere to the village and the restoration of these buildings is really special. It is a pity to see some of these in dilapidation but, hopefully, in the course of time this will be resolved. The old shirt factory stands prominently. The new housing developments behind the village are causing some disruption. They are nicely tucked into the village but by opening up areas such as these the vision of the backs of buildings is very clear and this is not always attractive. An example of this being very evident in the village. The many stone features around the town are lovely with the steps being used for container planting. The stone walls are another strong point of the village. The tin sheds behind the Millrace hopefully will be dealt with. The old Presbyterian building will be interesting as development proceeds. Shops and business premises are looking very well. The carpark has a nice wall surrounds and gate piers.

LANDSCAPING

Landscape projects in and on the approach roads show great imagination and innovation. The green by the Church on the main street is beautifully planted and maintained. The many containers through the village area nicely placed and the manner in which the Millrace is landscaped is delightful. The landscape features on the Newbliss road are attractive. The shelter is a cosy item. The area around the Windmill is well treated. The wall and river at Rockcorry GFC needs further attention to gain the maximum from this asset. Large specimens of ash and sycamore trees give character to the village. These were planted by previous generations who could never have hoped to see them to maturity. Similarly, we owe it to future generation to plant such trees as they will be much appreciated by future generations rather than the short-lived highly ornamental trees frequently used. The landscaping at the entrance to the housing estate behind the post office is attractive.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A visit to the Mill Yard and animal farm was interesting and

this is a lovely facility to have in the village. Work done on the area is worthwhile and is creating a very welcome amenity. The use of so much natural stone and the range of fowl makes for an interesting visit. The riverside and the hedgerow all contribute greatly to the wildlife content of the village. To appreciate all of this some basic information could be made available. This perhaps, could be done through school projects and with the help of the local knowledge accumulated.

LITTER CONTROL

There is a very good control of litter in the village with small amounts only of litter being noticed. Some litter was present in the river at the bridge and some at the Mill Race. It is difficult to keep all areas perfectly clean at all times but you are doing very well in this regard.

TIDINESS

There is an exceptionally tidy appearance apparent in the village. The derelict buildings do detract from this quality but, hopefully, these will be resolved in time. The Tin shed behind the Mill race and the work needed at the old Presbyterian hall cause a little untidiness as do the interruptions of building in progress and the exposure of behind the scenes areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a lovely standard of housing present. This ranges from the lovely terraced houses opposite the church to the individual houses out along the approach roads. It is great to see the large amount of residences right in the centre of the village. Newer housing developments out the roads are well tended and contribute well to the village scene by their maintenance and by their good gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Most of the village is clearly visible and there are few back areas. The view from the main streets of back lanes, entrances and behind business premises all play their part in contributing to the appearance of the village and a little attention in this direction would be helpful. The approach roads are beautifully treated with a simple formula of well cared for grass verges, thorn hedgerows with ash and sycamore trees and good stone walls. Gardens contribute too to the appearances of the roads. The Failte features and the stone constructed features all give a really nice appearance.

Road surfaces are very badly in need of resurfacing in places especially on Ballybay side. The lamp standards are attractive on the main streets.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rockcorry gives an impression of a village that is maximising its assets and is taking care of so many projects all aiming towards a better village.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (02/08/01)

At midsummer, the varied plantings in beds, urns, window boxes etc, provided a splendidly lively array of colour throughout Rockcorry. This adjudicator had not been in Rockcorry for some years, and was greatly taken by the many improvements. The Wild Life Park with its remarkably tame fowl is an interesting development and must be a real source of interest to visitors; similarly, the plans for the Mill area are imaginative, and results will be looked forward to over a period of time. The use of brick, traditional to the neighbourhood as far afield as Annaghmakerrig, is most attractive and it was wonderful to see this being continued in newer buildings. The most sophisticated domestic buildings are the houses facing Dartrey Church, and it is good to see them well maintained. It is to be hoped that the new owner of the prominent former Market House will undertake research into its original appearance, and restore it accordingly, particularly in respect of the windows. A very impressive entry, and obviously much more on the way.