

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **RATHVILLY**  
County : **CARLOW**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>250</b>

## **RATHVILLY, CO. CARLOW**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

The material submitted outlining the profile of Rathvilly was very interesting and helped to put so much of the village developments into perspective. The plans are comprehensive and they address the fundamental issues facing the village. The large committee of 16 gives great strength to its work. People were observed in two places painting litterbins and seats. Others were working at their gardens.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Catholic Church occupies a very strategic position in the village and with the surrounding landscaping adjoining the Kevin Barry memorial and gives a great picture of Rathvilly. Phelan Street is a very fine asset in the village. These houses are being well maintained and add character to the village. It is a pity that only two or three have retained the original windows. At some stage in the future perhaps they could be enhanced by replacement with timber sash window frames. The Health Centre needs attention to both repair of the wall and to the painting of the wall. The school is looking very well and is maintained to a high standard. The Phoenix centre is a great asset to the village and appears to get good use. Some attention to the exterior wall is needed. Some properties opposite the Phoenix centre are in need of decoration. The Post office and surrounding shops are well cared for. The paving, memorials and plaques are an important part of the built environment. The six-arched river bridge is a beautiful sight. Placing of cables underground throughout the village would be welcome. The entrance walls of the GAA grounds would benefit from painting.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Catholic Church grounds with roses to the roadside and enclosed borders are very impressive. The large weeping ash tree is beautiful and indicates how significant even one tree can be when positioned well. This tree was planted by people who could never have hoped to see it to maturity. This should be a prompting to do likewise for future generations. The railings around the shrubbery are well cared for, however, a question arises - are these railings serving a useful purpose? The landscaping around the Kevin Barry memorial is attractive without a need to rail it in. The cemetery is very well tended. The old Yew trees and the small ferns growing from the walls give a nice character to the place. Landscaping at the entrance to Wood Grove Avenue is very attractive and the school grounds are well cared for. The contribution that individual gardens make to the village is enormous from the smallest window boxes along Phelan Street to the larger gardens. The entrance to the new Slaney Bank development is very impressive. The wall plantings which seemed to be progressing well at the GAA grounds are removed.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The access to the river banks will allow more interesting study and appreciation of the wildlife of

the area. A riverside walk would be ideal. As mentioned last year, plans to involve schools in projects relating to the local environment would be very valuable.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Generally there is good litter control in the village. Some litter was noted however on the pavements opposite the Phoenix centre and in the old cemetery. Litter bins are well placed and as stated above, painting of litter bins was in progress during adjudication.

## **TIDINESS**

There is a very tidy appearance in the village and surrounds. Some premises needing attention to decoration detract a little. The weeds growing in the gutter along the building above the Credit Union do not help the tidiness aspect.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The large residential areas of Ardan Ui Chailinn and Michael Collins Park have a timber lath fence running along their road frontage. The timber requires repair and painting. The green areas in these estates present good opportunity for tree plantings. The St Patricks Park area is well presented to the front and the properties are very well maintained. The new estate at Slaney Bank presents housing typical of urban areas, with all the usual features of light railing, paving and design appropriate to a city suburb. One wonders why a design and formula cannot be adopted for a rural setting which Rathvilly is.

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

The approach roads to Rathvilly are nicely laid out with trees and grass being the dominant feature. This gives a calm non-fussy approach which is in keeping with the natural countryside. Street trees planted some years ago now look well and more tree planting would be advisable.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

There is a very definite impression of hard work and care and attention to this village. The sense of pride is evident. The central part of the village paints a very attractive picture and this is reflected throughout the village in many projects.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/02)**

Rathvilly is a charming village with much to offer resident and visitor alike. The Watermill B&B with its wheel was greatly admired, as were the hanging baskets at the adjacent bridge. However, the gable to the former should be re-painted, as the "shadow" of a former sign was visible here. The traditional style benches throughout were admired, although those by the tennis courts appeared to have been vandalized and should be repaired. A number of papers were spotted in the vicinity of the chip-van. The Phoenix Centre appeared quite flaky and should be re-painted before next year's competition. The re-cycling bins to the forecourt should be screened in some

manner, by means of planting of trellis, perhaps. The boundary wall to the Health Centre had been repaired since First Adjudication but had yet to be painted. The boundary wall to the GAA pitch was still grubby. The charming cottages on Phelan Street looked magnificent and the village pump opposite had been simply presented.