

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	28	26
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	20
Litter Control	40	31	28
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	217	202

Raphoe, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application form and further submissions and congratulations on the Endeavour Award. The 'Churchyard Wildlife and Nature Information' book is absolutely first class and I would endorse your nomination for the Wildlife award – congratulations to all involved on the hard work that has been put into it. With regard to your development plan – it would benefit from being pulled together and further developed. Decide on which year each of your projects will be started and give them realistic timescales for completion. Outline your proposals under the various categories of the competition. This will help focus your efforts and those of the community. Well done with the submitted map as it was very well prepared and very easy to interpret.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The area around the castle is beautiful and there are many historic buildings and sites of interest that were admired by this adjudicator. The Presbyterian Church is impressive and The Catholic Church is also well maintained although the car park would benefit from re-surfacing. Improvements could be made to the shuttering on the windows of the Scottish Church. Unfortunately, the building between the three churches has a tin roof and an untidy façade. Fairodds Betting Office appears dilapidated, almost derelict and if possible should be renovated. The new playgroup building was admired and noted – can something be done about the road here? Overhead cables are still present in Raphoe, with the exception of The Diamond - how much better it would look were all cables to be relocated in ducts beneath the ground.

LANDSCAPING

The Diamond is very well presented with good seating provision and coordinated street furniture. The environs to the Royal and Prior School are very well maintained. Further areas were admired within the town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Unfortunately this adjudicator could not locate the wildlife sign on Race Course Road but your wildlife walks are a credit to you. Well done with the cleaning at the waterfall and the wildlife area on Castle Road and again with the 'Churchyard Wildlife and Nature Information' book.

LITTER CONTROL

Congratulations to 5th class of Raphoe Central National School on the comprehensive waste management project submitted with your application. That the young people of Raphoe are not only aware of, but are actively fighting, the problems of litter and waste

is to be highly commended. Your hard work in keeping Raphoe clean and litter free are paying dividends as there was very little litter observed and plenty of bins provided.

TIDINESS

Well done with the poster campaign. You are making progress with the problem of dereliction and are again to be congratulated but do remain active on this issue. Could the large box trailer, parked on paving on the Diamond, be relocated? The area opposite the Shell garage on Meetinghouse Street was somewhat untidy with a broken down car which ought to be removed. The wall in front of the N.I. B. needs cleaning and repairing. The removal of fly posting which so often blights the landscape is to be commended. It is a pity that welcome signs are being sponsored by commercial interests as they detract somewhat from the approach to the town. I am aware that this slightly contradicts last year's adjudicator's comments and certainly no marks are being lost for it.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The cottages opposite The Presbyterian Church are very tidy. Beechwood Avenue looked well and has a good stone wall around the grassed area. More planting and shrubs are recommended here. There is a fine entrance to the Castleview estate. The house at the top of Irish Street is derelict and could do with renovation and the gate lodge looked a little run down. The house opposite it looked very well and had a fine well-maintained garden.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Letterkenny approach road is in very poor condition with a lot of surface water and it would benefit from the addition of footpaths on both sides of the road in the vicinity of the Congregational Church. The approach from Sligo is very pleasant and houses and gardens are well maintained. Road markings, at the Diamond need to be repainted. The town name signs on the approach roads could be improved by adding flower beds and shrubberies. The signs themselves could be upgraded to a design of your own as opposed to the ubiquitous council signs currently used. The sign on the town parks approach road is broken. Many of the roads marked on your map don't appear to have street signs to them – is this something that could be addressed?

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Raphoe is a very picturesque town with much to offer. You are to be congratulated on your efforts to further enhance its status as a tidy town.