

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	35
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>194</b>

# **Ratheniska, County Laois**

## **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The introduction to Ratheniska is a delightfully developed junction on the corner of which is a pond, hatchery and home for a family of duck. This is a most unusual and delightful area and the Ratheniska Tidy Towns Committee must be commended for its originality.

## **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Church on the left hand side is well kept and cleanly presented. It has a small graveyard and lawns both of which are well maintained. The introduction of new trees and shrubs will pay dividends in the years to come. The GAA Sportsfield is excellent with a fine car park. The changing rooms/clubhouse has been newly built and include wheelchair access. It is a fine building in every sense with its bright finish and natural timber doors. Nice to see developing hedging. Village Hall is well presented and the car park displays some floral boxes. School presentation is neat and tidy with oil tank colourfully disguised as the sun. Village buildings can be described as neat and tidy.

## **LANDSCAPING**

On the opposite side is a well maintained car park fronted by a statue with fine boxes of floral display. The village pump is attractively dressed. The little development at the well caught the eye and has been imaginatively developed.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Ratheniska has a wonderfully natural habitat for wildlife. It is hoped that a project could be undertaken to list all species which live year round or are seasonal visitors. As already mentioned, the duck pond development is most interesting.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

As one would expect for a village of this size Ratheniska is virtually litter free

## **TIDINESS**

By and large Ratheniska presents a tidy community. There are a couple of isolated problems such as the traffic damaged verge on the Stradbally Road and the garden in front of the house beside the hall needs to be reinstated.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The village hedging was nicely trimmed and generally the area looks idyllic for natural

wildlife. There was one garden beautifully emblazoned with flowers on the Portlaoise exit from the village.

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

The village nameplates set in stone are very attractive. The verge on the Stradbally approach road is badly damaged. Some lighting outside the school is suggested. A public information map/notice board would be a welcome addition.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ratheniska is a very pleasant village to visit. The GAA Grounds development will bring considerable numbers of visitors to the area and there is an opportunity to introduce this 'traffic' to the other attractions of the area.