

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	31	32
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	225	222

Rockcorry, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form & map. It would have been helpful to have a copy of your three- year plan and an explanation of the numbered features on the map. This would just have created a fuller picture of your continued good work and plans since my last visit. Continue to foster working relationships with all the local bodies that can contribute to the appropriate development of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Rockcorry has many fine and indeed unique features and buildings that reflect the industrial heritage of the village. The committee has recognised this and are effectively preserving them according to your resources. The school opposite the Presbyterian Church will look very well when completed, its sympathetic hardwood double - glazing widows to the front were noted. The larger school also looks well, both tidy and well maintained. The churches and their grounds looked well and are important focal buildings. The business premises all looked well and your continued efforts to maintain the many fine stone industrial and residential buildings, was noted. The prominent Market House building has improved its appearance quite simply but effectively, since my last visit, and last years comments re: its appropriate restoration should be noted. Hopefully the plans for the old church building will also have a successful outcome adding a new dimension to this area.

LANDSCAPING

The green area is a lovely central feature in the village with some lovely tubs, pumps and landscaping maintained to high standard. The tree planting and colourful landscaping on the approach roads are well maintained. Some simple, but effective beds opposite the new houses on the Ballybay road were noted. The pumps, junction boxes, seats and bin at Hilltop and some other bins do need their paintwork refreshed. Perhaps the committee may consider a village co-ordinated colour scheme. You have a large number of planters to maintain throughout the village and the large ones do detract effectively from the derelict buildings. Last years comments regarding optimising the bridge and river still apply. The Millrace is a lovely new feature and the lawn at the back looked well, also the Flax Pool and Well are lovely features both effectively enhanced and presented. Well done to all concerned for the hard work.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The ducks and birds at the mill are both a lovely and enjoyable feature and are an original idea to be appreciated by all under this heading. The bird boxes were also noted. Unfortunately I did not find access to the nature park as signed by the riverside cottage. The riverbank, green areas, hedgerows and the many mature trees throughout

the village all contribute to the natural amenities in your village and are worth highlighting. A nature trail with some appropriate information signs could be considered by the committee to optimise these features under this heading. Projects involving the school children - the future beneficiaries and local experts could also be considered.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter on the Cootehill road, on the main street, in the river at the bridge and in the Car Park. There was also some litter accumulating at the back of the house adjoining the Millrace, a consequence of your efforts to open up and tidy this area. You have some good bins all well placed through out the village. Continue your Schools Awareness Programme, as it is important to encourage good practice throughout the community in this important area of the competition.

TIDINESS

The committees continued hard work in this area, particularly in light of the derelict building, bears results in a tidy overall first impression as you pass through the village. Some good housekeeping and attention to detail could further enhance this. A gate and pallet past the church on the Cootehill road needs to be tidied and or replaced. An area behind the village park sign needs to be tidied and some pallets and rubbish have got caught in a gate on the river. The farmyard next to school, will hopefully replace its gate with a screening gate similar to the effective one adjoining it. The side of the ballroom could do with a cosmetic tidy that you use so effectively on derelict buildings elsewhere. The older tin sheds beside the Millrace could benefit from the touch of colour on the one adjoining. Some screening around the pump house will be effective when it grows out, as will the Hawthorn hedge on the way to Hillview.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many homes throughout the village and on the approach roads looked well maintained and presented, with some lovely flower features, tidy hedges and gardens. Well done to all involved and to those householders who maintain the areas outside their boundaries. Alice's spring & well is a pleasant and easy to maintain feature and Hillview also had some attractive features in an open area. The derelict cottage and surrounds past the riverside cottage will hopefully have a tidy new lease of life when sold, as it currently looks unsightly. It is particularly good to see new homes and families moving into the village and these new developments look well.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The landscaping, bi-lingual signs, stone - walls, tidy verges and hedges were noted on all the approach roads creating a lovely first impression. The 30 MPH sign on the Ballybay road and the Yield sign on Hall road need some attention. Road surfaces and footpaths were generally in good repair throughout the village. Last years comments re:

new developments opening up rear views of properties still applies under this heading and needs some consideration.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It was a pleasure to visit Rockcorry again and to see a community optimise their unique features for the benefit of the residents and visitor alike. The committee and community are to be commended for their enthusiasm, interest and considered development of their lovely village. The effective completion of your plans, attention to detail and perseverance will hopefully see your impressive village progress further in this competition.