

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RHODE**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	27	28
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	211	210

Rhode, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The comment in last years report that the village has reached a relatively good standard of presentation still applies. However there is still a lot of room for improvement particularly in the crossroads area in the village centre. It would not take a great deal to bring about significant additional improvements. The fact that you are preparing a village plan is welcome and this should help focus attention on the weaker areas. The sketch map was clear and helped the adjudicator.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the business premises are well presented, however the forecourt of the Rhode Superstore needs upgrading. Weeds are unsightly in the roof gutters and the petrol sign badly needs renovation. The school is well kept, the mural and the window boxes and flower tubs give it a lift. It is a pity that the house at Edenderry Road junction is vacant, hopefully it will not be allowed to deteriorate as this is an important location in the village centre.

LANDSCAPING

The mature trees in and around the village especially on the Portarlington Road greatly enhance the appearance of the village. The landscaping work at the new housing scheme on the Mullingar Road is noteworthy. Colourful flowers were noted in a number of locations especially in the village centre, e.g. at Enterprise Centre. However planting suitable screening trees behind the low stone wall from the Tullamore Road to the Enterprise Centre would be a big improvement. There are several large parking areas at pubs or shops that are somewhat unsightly that would be greatly improved with careful planting and resurfacing would also help.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Grand Canal is a wonderful natural amenity and wildlife habitat. Its proximity to the village should be made more use of. The tourist map at the Enterprise Centre is a fine feature.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is inadequate. Quantities of litter were present on the footpaths and roads particularly in the central village area. Better litter control must be one of your top priorities.

TIDINESS

The vast majority of buildings in the village and on the approach roads are well maintained. Grass margins and verges are also tended. However, weedy gravelled margins, poorly presented parking areas and litter are all negative factors.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses are well cared for throughout the village. Several could maintain boundary walls and gravelled areas in front of boundary walls to a higher standard. The landscaping and standard of maintenance of new housing estates on the Mullingar Road stands out. The iron railing is a nice feature.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The grass verges and margins on all the approach roads are maintained. The condition of the grassed areas improves as you approach the village centre from the Mullingar direction. However there are a considerable number of weedy stretches that need attention throughout the village. The wall with the flaking plaster as you approach Mulvins needs upgrading. Several signs require cleaning or painting. Under grounding the wires in the village centre would make a big difference.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rhode has the potential to do much better in the competition. Greater attention to detail would be a big help. The village plan will help focus your attention on priority areas. Don't be disheartened, substantial progress can be made.