

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathanna**

Ref: **443**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **198**

Category: **A**

Date: **16/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	
The Built Environment	40	26	
Landscaping	40	26	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	
Litter Control	40	28	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	20	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	198	

Overall Developmental Approach:

We welcome Rathanna into the Tidy Towns Competition and wish them every success in it. Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to read that you have the support of Carlow County Council, the Community Employment Scheme and, of course, your local community for your efforts. All concerned are to be commended on this. Looking to the future try to identify what other areas in the village can be improved and how this can be done within your physical and financial resources over the next three years. Try to do a certain amount each year. Do not try to do it all together as failure can sometimes lead to frustration. In doing this liaise closely with the agencies which are available to you i.e. Carlow County Council, Duchas, South East Tourism (based at Shee Alms House, Kilkenny) and, of course, your local community. In the event of you producing such a three-year plan please send a copy of it with your entry form next year so that the adjudicator can have sight of it.

The Built Environment:

The Church is a very fine building and was well presented on adjudication day as was the graveyard with evidence of work there taking place. The Old School House is also being well maintained and the Pump is a very nice feature. Rathanna does not have very many commercial buildings but both Coady's and Osbourne's looked well. Your walls are a primary feature and are being very well maintained. Congratulations to all concerned. Work on the bridges was also noted.

Landscaping:

Bearing in mind the size of the village the landscaping which you have carried out is delightful. The bridge and the main street was a blaze of colour on adjudication day and the presentation of hanging baskets and tubs of flowers created a wonderful atmosphere. Stone seats also looked very well as did the stone village nameplate – albeit that it was upside down. As part of your future planning try to identify other places for landscaping such as open spaces or which you can create such as in the new stone planter which looked very well and matched in nicely with the stone walls. In the process try to select trees and shrubs which will give you some colour on an all year round basis. This is a matter which you could discuss with Carlow County Council who have expertise in this respect.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading have been noted. However it is desirable that a wildlife project be undertaken. Initially perhaps, and with the involvement of your school children, you might consider the provision of feeding tables, nesting boxes and wildlife information boards which, in addition to perhaps getting you extra marks in the competition would also be an attraction in the village. Perhaps there is someone in the village who is knowledgeable on this subject. Do also consult with Duchas.

Litter Control:

The high standard mentioned on your entry form has indeed been maintained. Congratulations to all concerned. Rathanna was practically litter free on adjudication day and reflects greatly the interest of its residents in their environment. This is an important part of the competition which needs constant monitoring.

Tidiness:

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. Some natural untidiness was noted in the main street and in the car park where resurfacing is taking place. This however has been allowed for and will pass.

Residential Areas:

There are many nice houses in Rathanna. All have been well maintained and, on adjudication day, some had lovely gardens in full bloom. "Mountain View" house looked exceptionally well. This type of individual effort is absolutely vital if you are to succeed in the competition. Obviously you have it in Rathanna and well done to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are quite good as are pavements. As mentioned resurfacing was noted in the village and will obviously be completed during the year. This will enhance even further the nice overall atmosphere which the village has. Approach roads were well presented. In the normal way adjudication takes place between either the speed limit signs or the village nameplate signs – whichever you opt for. Grass verges should be trimmed from there on in but, in this connection, do take note of the advice given in the Tidy Towns Handbook under this heading in relation to the preservation of wild flowers. Approach roads are very important as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the village.

General Impression:

Rathanna is a very nice village situated in a lovely rural setting and with some additional planning and attention to detail could do very well in the competition. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Rathanna next year to see further progress.