

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathvilly**

Ref: **241**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **251**

Category: **B**

Date: **29/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	32	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	251	251

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information and for the map sent with the entry form which was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to read that you have the support of Carlow County Council, LEADER, FÁS, your residents groups and your community at large for your efforts and long may this continue. You received an in-depth report from last years Adjudicator. The following therefore is by way of comment on perceived further progress and should be read in conjunction with that report.

The Built Environment:

Many of the comments made last year under this heading are still applicable. Public buildings in general look good and these included the Church, Church of Ireland, Kevin Barry Memorial, Garda Barracks, School, Post Office and bridge. The Health Centre wall needs painting as does the Phoenix Centre and St Patrick's Hall. The tennis courts are being reasonably well kept. Walls throughout the village are being well maintained and are a great asset. In general business premises look well and the river bridge and its hanging baskets is a delight.

Landscaping:

The area around the Catholic Church and the Kevin Barry Memorial is very impressive indeed and

trees and shrubs planted in the past are now maturing and create a lovely atmosphere. Landscaping in general throughout the village is being well maintained and where presented, containerised plants, hanging baskets and window boxes add greatly to all of this. In general open spaces at housing estates are being well looked after. The one at Slaney Bank is indeed very pleasant. The pump is a lovely feature as is the area surrounding it.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Comments made under this heading last year are still applicable. The river area in particular would lend itself to such a project and initially this could be something very simple which perhaps could be done with your School by way of the provision of feeding tables and nesting boxes for birds and a wildlife board showing what birds and animals can be seen in the locality. Duchas would be glad to advise on this.

Litter Control:

While the centre of the village was practically litter free, unfortunately the same cannot be said for other areas. There was litter to be seen on the Tullow Road and the Hackettstown Road, in Woodgrove Avenue and unfortunately, to an enormous extent in Ardan Ui Chuilinn. It gives the Adjudicator no joy to say that Rathvilly seems to be losing its grip on litter control. The provision of additional litterbins may help but it would appear that a major educational programme has to be undertaken in order to highlight the problem.

Tidiness:

In general the village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. Building works taking place were noted and these, by their nature, are untidy. However this will pass. In the event an allowance has been made for this.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates mentioned in last year's report are still in need of attention. As mentioned, Slaney Bank is developing very nicely. St Patrick's Park was lovely as indeed was Phelan Street Cottages. Houses throughout the village are generally being well maintained and some had lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day. These added greatly to the overall appearance of Rathvilly and all concerned are to be congratulated.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are being well maintained and road surfaces and pavements are also being well kept. This reflects great credit on your Local Authority. Landscaping on approach roads to Rathvilly is very nice and creates an impression of what is to come.

General Impression:

Wonderful work on the maintenance of your landscaping is taking place in Rathvilly and indeed work in progress was seen on the day. Public buildings and private houses are also being well kept. In these circumstances it is such a pity that a litter problem exists which diminishes the efforts of so many people. Hopefully it will have solved itself by the time the second adjudication comes around but, at a maximum, by next year. Otherwise excellent work is being done and all concerned are to be congratulated.

Second Round Adjudication:

Rathvilly is a very pleasant village to drive into and it was noted on a board at the entrance that it

was awarded a bronze medal in the 2000 Tidy Towns Competition. In a quick drive through the village it was seen that the presentation is a mixture of excellent work by the Committee, but somewhat undermined by a widespread light covering of litter in all housing areas. The outstanding features of the village are the entrance around the Slaney, with its very fine bridge decorated with hanging baskets, and the nearby Waterwheel B&B with its most pleasant and inviting decorative floral arrangement. A very welcoming entrance area. St. Patrick's Church is a very fine building overlooking the village centre. Its grounds and the triangular space opposite are excellently landscaped and maintained. Possibly, in the future, the Committee could work with the County Council in improving the visual quality of the area of parking in front of the shops. The two-storey terrace housing on Phelan Street, dated 1903, is very fine with a judicious use of window boxes and baskets which contrast exceptionally well with the stone walls. Opposite this terrace is the excellently designed and beautifully maintained landscape feature centred around a pump. Again, the nearby school grounds and the building itself are a credit to all. These three elements, the bridge, the Church and the school, pump feature and terrace housing are the outstanding features of this village. But the impression is marred by the Phoenix Centre and Health Centre which need a complete repainting job externally, and in the case of the Health Centre, tree planting is needed. It is noted that both of these buildings were marked for improvement in previous adjudications. The main concern of the Adjudicator is the overall light covering of litter throughout the various housing areas, consisting of plastic bottles, paper and plastic boxes, both on the grassed open spaces, footpaths and in the gutters adjoining the kerbing. There is a problem here which was noted in previous adjudications. The Committee should consider an all-out attack on this litter problem which is negating the excellent work being done by the Committee and its helpers. The school must be involved with a talk by the Committee and the Litter Warden of the County on the duties of all to eliminate litter. A competition should be organised between the various housing areas for the best litter-free area and there should be (and maybe are) one resident from each housing area on the Committee. The concern of the Adjudicator is that within a few years there will be a large influx of new residents to the village. An ethos of litter control, indeed elimination of litter, must be in place by then. The adjudicator will be examining this control of litter in next year's adjudication.