

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rockchapel**

Ref: **565**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **177**

Category: **A**

Date: **25/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	20
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	19	17
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	24	21
Tidiness	20	11	9
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	177	170

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your application to this year's competition. I was disappointed to note that no plan was included in this year's application, despite it being mentioned last year. While you have done well this year and increased your marks by seven points, a development plan is needed for you to really make progress in the competition and compete for top honours. The plan would help you focus on all the issues that need to be addressed in Rockchapel over the next 3 to 5 years and highlight the work the committee needs to do (or have done by other agencies) to ensure progress is made. By setting targets over this period for each action to be completed, both the committee and the adjudicator will clearly be able to see what has been achieved from year to year.

The Built Environment:

Natural stone features very much in the built environment of Rockchapel. This varies from the lovely stone walls by the grotto, with inbuilt seating in those walls, to the church structure itself which looks particularly well in its setting. Its pleasant lawn surroundings was also admired. The stone wall incorporating the famine plaque is an attractive and a novel idea. The funeral home, school with business premises alongside and the Teach Ceol buildings all look well and are well maintained. The community centre is also prominent. A fence has been put in place behind this, which is good for safety. The post office and old ball alley area all painted and look very fresh. "Paddy Molly's" would benefit from a little attention to its paint-work at this stage. The dilapidated houses and farm building form a sharp contrast with the Teach Ceol on the other side of the road. Hopefully these

buildings and the Curtin premises and its adjacent buildings will soon be remedied.

Landscaping:

The church grounds look very well with the simple formula of well maintained grass and surrounding trees with cotoneaster growing neatly on the inside of the wall. The school grounds are well tended. Nice stonework has been developed within the garden of the business premises next to the school. The planting with this stonework is also interesting. The planted area by the grotto looks very well. The picnic table and surrounds of the community centre could benefit from a more imaginative arrangement. The hard core and kerbing look very stark at the picnic table. Planted containers at houses and business premises along the street and the gardens of roadside houses contribute well to the overall appearance of the village

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The River Feale must offer interesting possibilities in this regard. A riverside walk, other than the walk towards the cemetery, which is more of a roadside walk, would be a valuable way to appreciate the wildlife of the area and such a project should be instigated

Litter Control:

There is generally a very clean appearance with only minor amounts of litter. However, some litter was spotted by the pavements at the church and the community centre. Constant vigilance and encouragement is needed to change peoples attitude to litter disposal. The bottle banks were noted.

Tidiness:

There is a good level of tidiness. The well-trimmed hedges and the painted buildings all help in this regard. Some building work in progress beside the community centre is a little disruptive but this, in time, will be resolved. The old prefab houses at the housing estate beyond the grotto need to be removed and of course the derelict buildings do not help under this category.

Residential Areas:

The small housing estate at the top of the grotto road is well maintained with good attention has been paid to appearances. The individual houses in the main street and on the approach roads look well and those that look after their homes and gardens very well contribute greatly to the impression given of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roadside verges are particularly attractive with the wide range of colourful plants growing naturally. Cutting them back when in full flower could be unwelcome, yet some balance has to be struck between appearances and practicalities. The approach roads are well treated. The amount of footpaths that have been recently constructed is impressive and hopefully this will continue. The fence on the way to the school is well painted and the timber fence by the community centre and at the funeral home, although of different types, both look well.

General Impression:

Rockchapel is attractively set by the River Feale and its proximity to this lovely river could be used to greater advantage. The very compact nature of the village is attractive. Planning and development for future projects now need to be documented

