

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathbarry**

Ref: **455**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **268**

Category: **A**

Date: **05/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	35
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>266</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Rathbarry continues to impress as it maintains its excellent standards and strives to add to its treasure chest of amenities. Working with statutory agencies, such as the local authority, Dúchas and An Coillte is obviously paying dividends. It is good to hear that attendances are getting even larger at your monthly meetings. The selection of the lake walk and the Milltown Wood as projects is applauded.

### The Built Environment:

Most buildings in the village rest easily in the beautiful environs of Rathbarry. The post office and its very informative adjacent museum provides a wealth of information on the area and environmental issues. St. Michael's church is beautifully maintained, as are the graveyard and embankment behind. The Sprigging School is a most interesting facility and is quite restful in its location, away from the centre of the village. O Donovan's is a fine premises; the comments relating to PVC windows in last year's report would still apply.

### Landscaping:

The embankment at the rear of St. Michael's Church has grown in character and it is most impressive to the visitor. The margins on the approaches and the display of vintage farm machinery

in the village is very pleasing to the eye. Particularly the 'winnowing machine'. The waterwheel between the post office and O Donovan's pub is a wonderfully attractive amenity. The big wood does indeed continue to thrive. Milltown Wood represents a wonderful amenity and would make a great project if your application under the neighbourwood scheme is successful. The removal of the Japanese larch is also commended.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The information panels on wildlife at the church embankment and at An Tobairín on the Ardfield Road gives a great insight into local species. The fact that these are artistic impressions makes them more special and care must be taken to refresh them occasionally. There is an obvious attempt being made to welcome birdlife with bird feeders and nesting boxes located around the village. The lake walk is a fine amenity and will be greatly enhanced following the implementation of your work schedule. It provided a beautiful view of the lake at the end. The ecological report supplied by the Dúchas District Conservation officer outlines the wealth of species and the management objectives required.

### **Litter Control:**

Rathbarry's success in the litter-free roadsides and inter-village competitions is well deserved. The involvement of the school children is applauded. The cleaning of the long strand is a great initiative. This is a great community building exercise along with the obvious environmental benefits. The village continues to hold up its high standards in this category.

### **Tidiness:**

Kerb side weed growth is being kept at bay. The village should investigate the possibility of getting recycling facilities - if such are viable for a village of Rathbarry's size. The pallets near the end of the lake walk should be removed. These could be used as board walks over some of the softer sections of the walk.

### **Residential Areas:**

Practically all houses in the village have beautifully maintained boundary hedges and walls and beautiful gardens. New additions blend in well with the existing housing stock. It must be heartening for all the local inhabitants to live in such a well cared for sympathetic environment.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The entrance to the village uses a beautiful combination of foliage, cut stone and timber fencing. The problem of subsidence is noted opposite An Tobairín on the Ardfield Road. The car park at St. Michael's church is a lovely oasis of calm. The caiteach performs a useful function as well as being a fine work of art - with great relevance to its setting. The parking areas at O'Donovan's pub and at the post office are nicely maintained. All visible side views and back areas of private and commercial premises are well tended.

### **General Impression:**

The village presents itself as an integrated centre. This is due, in no small way, to your careful planning and preparation.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The standard of litter control on Second Adjudication Day was as excellent as ever. Minor outbreaks were spotted at the green space on the Ownahincha Road and on near An Tobairín, which sported

some attractive fuchsia bushes and montbretia. The rustic timber fencing and entrance to the Lake Walk were noted and admired. Rathbarry is an enthusiastic and hardworking centre which continues to maintain and develop its work with immense care and effort. It is a fine example to other villages in the competition. Congratulations on all your hard work over the years.