

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathangan**

Ref: **468**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **246**

Category: **C**

Date: **29/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	37	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	27
Litter Control	40	28	26
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	246	240

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your excellent submission that included a long-term Plan, a map of the village and additional information. The Rathangan Tidy Towns Committee is very strong and has been very active indeed.

The Built Environment:

The village is located mainly on the banks of the River Slate and adjacent to the Grand Canal. The town plan is essentially linear and runs parallel to the river. The village has a strong integral Georgian character and this has been complimented by recent developments. The fabric of the village is most interesting and consists of a range of 18th and 19th century houses and public buildings. Many of these are of unusual vernacular design and most are maintained to a very high standard.

Landscaping:

A range of major landscaped areas play an important part in the morphology of the town. These include the river, the canal, the Tannery Park, the triangular green, and the old graveyard. The work of the committee in the maintenance, up-keep and provision of new planting, trees and other new landscape elements is highly successful. The one weak area, in terms of landscape, is the

Roman Catholic church car park. This is neat and tidy, but looks bare and windswept. This is in contrast with the rest of the village. The environment here would benefit enormously from a tree planting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The committee have developed excellent wildlife and natural amenities along the river and canal. The maintenance and expansion of these facilities is admirable, particularly the work with the schools.

Litter Control:

The litter control programme is proving highly effective and only very minor instances of litter were noticed around the village streets and along the approach roads. This is excellent.

Tidiness:

The overall appearance of the village is one of careful management, neatness and tidiness.

Residential Areas:

These consist of a large number of housing developments around the village. The great bulk of these are excellent, with attractive and landscaped open spaces, wonderful planting, well presented entrances, well managed houses and attractive gardens. The division of the village into sub-areas is excellent and has certainly produced high standards. There are, however, exceptions to the general high levels achieved and the committee might put in a special effort to raise the standards in these weak areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads generally are in good shape. These are lined with a mixture of paths, attractive verges, and a mixture of boundary wall types. The verges are, for the most part, well managed, although improvements could be initiated in some areas such as the Kildare Road, where attention to trimming is needed. The committee could secure more marks by enhancing the village approach.

General Impression:

The efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee and the local community have paid handsome dividends for the village. It was a most delightful experience to wander around the village and sample the spaces, the architecture, the landscape and the presentation.

Second Round Adjudication:

Rathangan created a good impression on Second Adjudication Day, as it looked well cared for. In terms of signage, a faded (or painted out?) sign in the centre of the village opposite the garda station, adjacent to the village green, looked unfortunate. In terms of the built environment, Fulham's looked fresh in red with hanging baskets. The gable of one building had been neglected. Gables should always be taken into consideration when painting properties as they are evident to the passer-by. The community centre, situated in a charming old stone building, looked most interesting. Regarding landscaped areas, the Tannery Park looked well, as indeed did the numerous landscaped areas throughout the town. This adjudicator is in agreement with the comments made by the First Adjudicator regarding the potential for a landscaping project at the Catholic church forecourt/car park area. The odd paper was evident in the main streets of the town. Rathangan has a wealth of historical significance for the visitor, with its Quaker Cemetery and Meeting House.

