

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathmoylon**

Ref: **77**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **202**

Category: **B**

Date: **17/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	
The Built Environment	40	29	
Landscaping	40	28	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	
Litter Control	40	14	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	23	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	202	

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for their entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. The Entry Form was only partially completed however this deficiency was off-set to some degree by the inclusion of a very good Community Newsletter, a very good Village Map, a brief history of work completed and plans for 2003. For a population of approximately 350, members of the Committee make up 18 with 6 directors and 4 Sub-Committees. Truly an achievement. The results of this input can be seen in the work being achieved and the awards received. The good liaison with statutory bodies is also noted. There are usually twelve clean-up days which has had obvious benefits and the reason for the quality of work achieved by the Committee. Well done.

The Built Environment:

Rathmoylon is a small pleasant village that has developed around a crossroads at the junctions of the R153 and the R159. The buildings within the village are a pleasant mixture of one and two-storey buildings. Fleetwood, a paint company, have given a prize of €500 to help with the painting programme and the Adjudicator awaits with interest to see the results of this initiative.

Landscaping:

Great attention has been given to maintenance and landscaping, both within the village and on the

approach roads and the Adjudicator noted the work carried out in Main Street, the Churches, the School grounds and the pocket park at the crossroads in the village. The verge treatment in front of the Catholic Church was particularly admired. The Committee is to be roundly congratulated for their attention to detail.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In a small rural village like Rathmoylon, there is no need to create wildlife sanctuaries. Much more would be achieved by a tree planting programme using berried or other forms of fruit bearing trees indigenous to the locality. Appropriate tree species would be oak, ash, rowan, beech, chestnut, lime and thorn. These will encourage more birdlife within and surrounding the village.

Litter Control:

There was no litter in Rathmoylon on the day of the adjudication and the Committee is to be congratulated for such an achievement.

Tidiness:

All roads into the village were very well maintained with a mixture of mown and wild grasses. It was good to read that the landowners along the roadside hedgerows and verges are willing to attend to this. The contrast looked well. The gardens of the houses on the way in were quite delightful and added greatly to the air of caring and invitation. They should be commended. Main Street had a mixture of barrel planters, hanging baskets and window boxes, creating a very pleasant ambience indeed.

It is suggested that the Committee might approach the County Council to paint yellow lines to demarcate the road carriageway from the large gravelled verges on Main Street (adjoining and in front of the Church of Ireland church). These verges could then be developed as grassed areas with trees with some car parking facilities. It would give an extra tidiness to this central part of the village. Also, during the summer holidays there is a general tendency to neglect school grounds. It is important that the Committee along with pupils from the school keep the grass cut here and pick up any windblown litter. Involving school children in litter collection, on a regular basis (say, weekly) encourages them to care and respect the village they live in.

Residential Areas:

There are some very fine front gardens in the village and on the approach roads. It is suggested that the Committee organise a Gardens Competition that would involve both existing and new gardens. It is also suggested that the Committee could encourage the creation of a mulch bank from grass cuttings, leaves, etc. which could then be used in various locations throughout the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As already mentioned under Tidiness, the tree-lined approach roads into the village, with their mixture of cut and uncut grass verges (but always most tidy), give a pleasing feeling. In particular the Adjudicator commends the Committee for the very fine welcoming road signs at the entrances to the village and a "Slán Abhaile" as one leaves. A nice touch.

General Impression:

A delightful small village that was a joy to come upon. The Committee deserve every praise in their work and the Adjudicator looks forward to next year's further improvements.

