

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathvilly**

Ref: **697**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **253**

Category: **B**

Date: **07/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>251</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

It is disappointing to read that you do not have sponsorship or practical assistance for your efforts this year. However, it is gratifying to read that you still have the support of statutory and other bodies and your residents for your efforts. Your development plan for 2004 is very manageable and hopefully will be achievable within your physical and financial resources. Thank you indeed for the information sent with entry form including the map which was most useful on adjudication day.

### The Built Environment:

Rathvilly has many fine public buildings (listed in last year's report) which were again very well presented on adjudication day. The appearance of both the Health Centre and Phoenix Centre seem to have improved. St Patrick's Hall could still do with a coat of paint. The tennis courts are being well kept and, in general, business premises are also being well maintained. Walls throughout the village and the river bridge are indeed features.

### Landscaping:

In general, landscaping throughout the village is being well maintained, added to by window boxes, hanging baskets, containerized plants all of which create a very nice ambience for which Rathvilly is noted. The new landscaping at Fr Cullen Terrace also looks very well and adds even further to this.

Open spaces in housing estates are being well looked after. The village pump is a lovely feature. The area around the Catholic Church and Kevin Barry Memorial is maturing very nicely. However the surrounds of the church (inside the railing) needs weeding.

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

Your plan for 2004 does not indicate that you propose to carry out a project under this heading. As mentioned last year, the river area would lend itself to such a project. It is noticed for example that there is a very nice wildlife board already in position. The provision of nesting boxes and feeding tables would add greatly to this initial development.

### **Litter Control:**

Unfortunately, again this year, there was evidence of some littering to be seen – noticeably at Michael Collins Park, near the Church (in spite of the presence of a litter bin) and at the tennis courts. Generally speaking the centre of the village was litter free but where litter did exist it spoiled the overall effect. This is a problem which needs constant monitoring.

### **Tidiness:**

In general, and as usual, Rathvilly was again presented in a neat and tidy manner which reflects greatly on the intent of your residents to preserve their environment. Well done to all concerned.

### **Residential Areas:**

New housing estates were noticed and it is hoped that Residence Associations will be formed in them with representation on your committee. The older houses are being very well maintained and their gardens looked lovely and added greatly to the ambience of the village. Well done to all concerned.

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

Approach roads are being well maintained and where provided, landscaping greatly enhances their appearance. Road surfaces and pavements are in good order and reflects great credit on your local authority.

### **General Impression:**

Rathvilly is a lovely village and in terms of its public buildings, private residences and landscaping is being very well maintained. Littering is a problem. Having reached a very high mark in the competition additional marks will only be had from now on through careful planning and attention to detail. The implementation of your plan and that of 2005 will greatly help your cause – the hope being that Rathvilly will once again feature in the top echelon of the competition. In the meantime keep up the good work.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Rathvilly was a pleasure to adjudicate on a fine summer's evening. A standard of excellence has been achieved for the village both in the centre and on approach roads. The river banks enjoy an excellent standard of presentation and the display board here is both attractive and informative. The built environment is well presented in general and many premises were admired including the Phoenix Centre and the stone dwellings along Phelan Street. There are too many signs on the facade of the pub located across from the Phoenix Centre. The boundary wall of the school may need attention soon. The hall located beside the tennis courts could be improved a little. The grotto was admired and verges from here into the centre were neatly presented. A short stretch of verge on the Tullow road from the nameplate towards the village was overgrown during adjudication, however

this was the exception rather than the norm in Rathvilly. A fair amount of litter was in evidence in the village centre particularly in the environs of the shops. Its worth noting that the Fair Green was spoiled with a number of soft drink bottles and cans which is disappointing given the track record of Rathvilly in the competition. Some litter was also noted on the grass verge across from the tennis courts and to the roadside of the Michael Collins Park development. The nameplate for the Michael Collins Park needs to be refurbished. Bags were noted at the Recycling point but these were being stored in a tidy manner. It is important not to allow this to become the norm as it is much more difficult to control their neat storage. Some concrete post fencing to the bridge is in need of repair. No doubt the new Slaney Meadows residential development will be finished to a high standard as is the case with the Slaney Bank development.