

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ruan**

Ref: **722**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **206**

Category: **A**

Date: **30/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	32
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	16
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	206	204

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your entry form. Improvement works continue in Ruan which is at present in a period of change with new residents coming into the village. As suggested in previous reports a plan or work programme for the next few years should now be drawn up in order to focus your efforts.

The Built Environment:

The Church and grounds were very well presented as were the School buildings. Morty Kelly's Pub with its nice window boxes looked well as did Purcell's Pub where the landscaping in the car park has matured. However the shop and petrol pump area in the village centre has not improved and also the derelict building opposite Purcell's Car Park has disimproved as the boarded up windows and door have been broken. To progress further in the Competition, a solution must be found to these problems and you should speak to the County Council as they have powers to act in this regard. There are many good stone walls in and around the village and a new wall being stone faced past the houses being built on the Church road. These walls are very attractive and care should be taken at this stage that ivy does not take hold.

Landscaping:

On the Ennis approach the large shub bed is a great introduction to the village. It was noted that Ruan is on the Mid-Clare marked walk way and no doubt the walkers admire the park area with the sculpture which is close to their route and which was well maintained on the day of adjudication. The mature trees opposite the new housing were admired. The legacy of those that planted them in the past is now being enjoyed. However, the flower bed in the green area here had not been planted. The tubs of flowers at the entrance to Church road were attractive and some of the gardens at private houses were exceptional. The cemetery was also extremely well maintained.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

All the planting undertaken contributes under this category. We would suggest that you consult the Tidy Towns Handbook for suggestions of other wild life initiatives for the future.

Litter Control:

There was no litter to be seen throughout the village and the bin outside the school was full – well done. However, we would suggest that the battered steel bin outside the Church be replaced with a more appropriate receptacle.

Tidiness:

The village kerb sides were weed free throughout. However, at the School where a new surround wall and railings were being put in place, this site was left in an untidy condition. Obviously the sites where the new houses were being built were also in an untidy condition and the builders should be requested to leave this in a neat and tidy state when they are finished. An untidy area next to the derelict house should also receive attention.

Residential Areas:

Private houses were mostly looking well, some with lovely gardens as mentioned above. Also, the use of window boxes was noted. The housing estate also looked well except that some boundary walls here needed to be painted. The new houses being built will add a new dimension to the village and these new residents should be encouraged to assist you in your endeavours.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Directional signage was mostly good throughout. Road surfaces were of mixed quality and some roadside verges needed attention.

General Impression:

Ruan is a very pleasant rural village which progresses to a certain extent each year. Drawing up a work plan and bringing the whole community with you in your endeavours in the future would be important..