

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathbarry**

Ref: **559**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **270**

Category: **A**

Date: **03/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	38	37
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	36
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>268</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Your Three Year Plan is dated 2004 so presumably this is Year No. 1? Rathbarry Tidy Towns Committee continues to show a high level of commitment to the village and an enthusiastic interest in its continued development including references back to its historic past. Work to the new bridge was noted and admired and your photographic record of the erection of same was quite fascinating. Congratulations on your success in the Best Kept Towns Competition - again the photographic record of the tree planting of your prize in the church grounds was certainly a cheerful one!

### The Built Environment:

The church and its grounds were as well maintained as ever, as was the Post Office and Museum. O'Donovan's Pub was fresh and looked cheerful with timber picnic tables outside. The Sprigging School was simply presented. Premises in the town were generally presented to the highest of standards.

### Landscaping:

The graveyard is prominent as one enters the village and is always maintained to a high standard. The information board in this locality with its colourful map indicating areas of interest in the locality and potted geraniums below, was well presented. The freshly painted historical farm machinery

displayed on the open space on the Rosscarbery Road looked well. The picnic area with rose bed opposite this on the Red Strand Road was also admired.

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

Rathbarry is indeed fortunate in this regard, as it is blessed with a wealth of forest, nearby lake and magnificent vegetation such as displays of montbretia and ferns. Your lakeside and woodland walks are marvelous amenities to have in your locality. Wildlife information boards were evident near the picnic tables and bird tables in the woodland area close to the rear steps of the church and also on the Red Strand Road. Indeed bird tables were evident throughout the village, including at the sprigging school.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good.

### **Tidiness:**

The village looked generally neat and ordered on the day. A pile of gravel was evident in the vicinity of the new bridge leading to the restored well. An orange cone to the far side of the stream would imply that work is still ongoing in this locality. Do ensure that building materials are removed once construction is complete. A small yellow hydrant on the road to the sprigging school appeared to have been damaged. Do ask Cork County Council to replace or repair this. A rusty tin roof to a shed opposite should be repainted in its traditional red or green colour. And the pole to the directional signs at the entrance to the lake walk appeared somewhat rusty. Besides these minor outbreaks the village was generally as neat and tidy as ever on adjudication day.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are many new houses both completed and under construction in the village. Do ensure that these are in keeping with unique character and charm of Rathbarry. An attractive house with magnificent garden near the village centre was admired with its wonderful window boxes filled with geraniums.

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

The stone walls make the Clonakilty Road a most attractive entrance to the village, as indeed does the magnificent fuchsia bush overhanging the wall in this locality. Along the Rosscarbery Road relatively new trees were admired and the ferns, honeysuckle, foxgloves and daisies in the hedgerows looked magnificent. Along the Red Strand Road the verges had been freshly cut and fuchsia hedges were admired. This road affords the visitor -whether passing along the road or sitting at the picnic benches - a magnificent view across the valley to the woodlands beyond!

### **General Impression:**

Rathbarry is a most attractive centre whose residents show an obvious pride in the village, its future and its unique and interesting past. Well done, once again, to all concerned!

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It was a delight for this adjudicator to visit Rathbarry for the first time. Your village differs from others in that it is so widespread and it is to your credit that you have succeeded in harbouring so much energy in so many directions. You have a host of attractions: e.g., attractive woodlands, a rich array of wild and cultivated flowers, quality period houses, good road structure, well presented public buildings, well laid out grassed areas, embellished with attractive farm implements and

currently attractive new houses under construction. Most importantly there is obvious evidence of a caring community and this is your strong point. We commend you on your attention to detail and your treatment of the natural environment. Unique also is the distinctive stone wall building, highlighting the hand of the landlord of a previous age. We would have welcomed a more defining submission and a clearer image for the future, together with an improved sketch map. We like the novel signage at the entrance from the Clonakilty side. We commend you also on the use of Irish throughout the area: e.g., Ceol na Mara, An Garrán Cóir, etc.