

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathmolyon**

Ref: **561**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **205**

Category: **B**

Date: **08/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	
The Built Environment	40	29	
Landscaping	40	28	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	
Litter Control	40	17	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	23	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	205	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Rathmolyon Tidy Towns Committee appears to have a good working relationship with Meath County Council and a reasonably high level of support from the local community. Hopefully your problems in relation to group water / sewerage scheme will be resolved in the not too distant future. Your five year plan made very interesting reading and your ideas and proposals seem quite sensible. For next year's competition do include a larger scale map, as that submitted was quite small and conveyed less information than it should have for adjudication purposes.

The Built Environment:

Harman's thatched pub looked extremely charming. The plastic signage above the door of the shop should be replaced with one of a more traditional variety. The Post Office looked quite flaky - indeed a flaky gable to a building in this row created a very impression on entering the village on the Mullingar side! The Catholic Church looked well, but its boundary wall will need painting before next year's competition. Do consider further landscaping in this location, as those trees adjacent to the car park are most successful. The Church of Ireland looked well and plans for this area of the village appear quite interesting.

Landscaping:

The Village Green was well maintained and its trees were maturing well. Your plans for a stone water feature at this location will hopefully enhance this area. However, perhaps you could consider replacing the yellow bollards and chain with something more modern, natural in appearance and requiring less maintenance, such as large limestone spheres or limestone bollards. The grassy banks with stone planted beds on the Mullingar Road were well maintained. Try to avoid a dependence on hanging baskets and flora displays as these will only give seasonal effect and colour. Permanent planting and trees will create a year round effect.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator noted work taking place to the Harvest Walk area on the Mullingar Road. This will be most worthwhile when complete. Your plans for a wild flower area will improve this aspect of the competition greatly. For more short term initiatives in this aspect of the competition, consult your Tidy Towns Handbook. It covers such topics as the types of wildlife areas that can be created, habitat surveys and management plans.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good, with a single paper evident on grass verge on the Dublin Road. Do ensure that litter bins are maintained by keeping them washed down and freshly painted.

Tidiness:

Messy yard areas should be screened from public view as best you can. A large gap in the hedgerow on the Enfield Road created a bad impression on this approach. The problem of the derelict site at the crossroads opposite the Village Green will hopefully be resolved in the not too distant future, as it looks quite unfortunate in this prominent location. The car parking area to the Church of Ireland appeared quite rough and plans for this area are eagerly awaited. Weed control was a problem to the area opposite.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category was somewhat inconsistent. The housing estate on the Enfield Road unfortunately sported an extremely overgrown open space. Individual houses were generally well maintained; one in particular on the Dublin Road was admired for its magnificent rose garden.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

This category of the competition was also somewhat inconsistent. The Enfield Road appeared to be quite overgrown, between the welcome sign and the village, although further out the road had been maintained to a higher standard. Road signage could have been improved upon, as some of it appeared quite damaged. The speed limit sign on the Dublin Road was turned completely the wrong way around! The Mullingar Road was well maintained. Work was taking place in this location, as previously commented upon. Although its square traditional sign was admired, it will need painting before next year's competition. The Dublin Road was somewhat inconsistent in its presentation.

General Impression:

Rathmolyon is an attractive village which has the potential to do extremely well in the competition. Use the comments made in this report to improve the standard of the village for next year's competition.

