

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rhode**

Ref: **45**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **221**

Category: **B**

Date: **16/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	221	221

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of work on hand. As mentioned last year it is now imperative that you formulate a development plan outlining projects for improvement of Rhode. This is now a necessity in view of the great amount of house building in the area. Indeed the village is fast growing and population growth is going to bring significant changes. We suggest you redouble your efforts aimed at organising groups who will support your efforts and share in the benefits. Contact the Offaly Co. Council and they will advise you regarding assistance available.

The Built Environment:

The church is your best building and an example for others to follow. Its environs further enhance. We were impressed with the restorational work at the Enterprise Centre and it was busy on the day of adjudication. Other buildings that looked well include: Mulvins, with good colour, The Village Pub, Criostóir Ó Floinn, Doyles and the Take Away. The school is well presented with good colour from the window boxes: however, the pick-up traffic at 3 p.m., is without discipline. The area opposite the school is very overgrown and might be tidied up by the committee. Well done on the recycling depot near the school. The hall is drab and needs improved presentation.

Landscaping:

Some of previous years landscaping continues to improve the village and illustrates the value of tree planting in particular. The garden at Coolcur is excellent with well trimmed grass area. You might consider a Fáilte sign here welcoming visitors to Rhode. It is however a very busy corner with traffic showing little care for speed. The tubs at the Enterprise Centre looked well. There is stone development on the approach from the GAA, and we wonder is a water feature is planned for here?. We urge you to continue with your tree planting policy and plant for the next generation, ideally, oak, beech, ash, sycamore, and lime.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You could with ease increase your marks here. You should involve the school in wildlife project aimed at listing and illustrating the popular wildlife species of the area. This might then lead to the erection of a display board in some prominent location: perhaps at the Collcur amenity garden.

Litter Control:

You have scored well in this section and litter did not appear to be a problem. Litter bins are of a good quality and well dispersed around the village,

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to a number of untidy and poorly presented open spaces. The commercial yard beside the Gala shop is quite unsightly and the chainlink fencing should be replaced with a more environmental friendly fence: the entrance gates here are broken also.

Residential Areas:

You have some very well presented housing estates. Priory Lawn is excellent with some very good individual effort. It is good to witness such good grass control . This estate needs a name plate and you should erect an appropriate bilingual sign. The estate is also without an identity. well known locally no doubt, but spare a thought for visitors and strangers to the area. Hillview is well presented. Clonin housing is well designed and well maintained on this lengthy approach from Mullilngar. The landscaping at Hillview is not paying attention to detail and the nicely planted nest of trees at the various corners in the estate are overgrown. These could be a showpiece but they are neglected. Woodville housing is also without identity.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your approach roads are busy, lengthy, and accommodating continuous traffic. Road structure is good and signage well placed. Road margins and some areas between boundary wall and roadside need attention. This is particularly true of houses on the approach roads. Back and side entrances are now an integral part of the competition so you should encourage owners of premises to keep these areas in good condition.

General Impression:

As mentioned, the village is undergoing immense changes in view of the housing developments. The village is also under pressure from heavy traffic. We recommend a phased development that will have the approval and active backing of the community. We wish you well in your endeavours.