

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathcabbin**

Ref: **379**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **191**

Category: **A**

Date: **05/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	31
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	191	185

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form and sketch map.

As stated in last years report the plan is nearing an end and at this stage needs to be reviewed and see what has been achieved.

The Committee is rather large and maybe it would be worthwhile considering having a Rathcabbin sub committee feeding into the main group.

I appreciate that this is your first year in charge of Tidy Towns but it would probably benefit Rathcabbin if a dedicated group from the village took over its tidy towns role.

The fostering of good relationships with local organisations and statutory bodies is the key to success in the competition.

It has been some time since this adjudicator visited the village and in the intervening period some positive changes have occurred.

The Built Environment:

The village is quite small and any blemish is easily identified.

In this context it is important that the problem of derelict and unoccupied buildings be addressed. It was noticeable that one house that was unoccupied for some time was in the process of being restored, this is a very positive step

Kennedys Garage is an eyesore but if successfully sold and restored it can become an asset and hopefully that will happen.

The path from the Balloughter Estate is a welcome addition and it is now easier for residents to walk into the village without the fear of traffic on what is a very narrow road.

The Last Chance Saloon and adjoining shop was in good condition although the name does signify more association with the wild west than with Rathcabbin.

A farmhouse up from the pub was admired for its well preserved grounds and boundary walls.

The public buildings such as the circular church, school and community hall, which was recently painted, were all presented to a good standard. The Midwest Health Board premises has been totally transformed, its amazing what a coat of paint and some additional tidying up can do.

Landscaping:

Good to note that the Committee has taken steps to engage with the County Council to provide some additional planting at an area as one enters the village.

Maybe the Council Horticulturist could be persuaded to provide Rathcabbin with a planting plan that would go towards enhancing the village even more.

Keep up the good work in this category as what is in place already is effective, although the shrub bed at the Church is getting a little crowded.

The nice stone wall opposite the community hall could benefit from some additional flower boxes or tubs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Committee has taken the appropriate action to foster wildlife conservation by first of all being aware of the natural habitat that enriches the villages of Lorrha and Rathcabbin.

The suggestion that some of the derelict sheds could be used for nesting boxes is an innovative idea and well worth pursuing.

Litter Control:

A small amount of litter was noticed at the road edges on the way in from the Balloughter Estate.

The Committee is actively encouraging local people to be part of regular clean ups as well as involving the schools.

Keep up the good work.

Tidiness:

The village has a number of derelict premises that contribute to a certain degree of untidiness.

Weed growth was evident on the road out to the Balloughter Estate and on the Birr Road entrance.

It is important that the County Council be prevailed upon to keep the road edges cleaned especially after hedge cutting as residue forms that encourages weed growth.

Local residents should also maintain areas immediately in front of their respective premises.

Residential Areas:

The Balloughter Estate was well presented except for one house and this may be because of extenuating circumstances.

The residents can be proud of their houses many boasting nice colourful gardens and the parking area was very tidy and free of litter or rubbish.

The houses on the way in from Portumna add a new dimension to the Village having nice boundary walls and new footpaths.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrance into the village off the Birr Portumna road was good except that the name sign could be more prominent and removed from the stone wall.

The green area, with nice post and rail fencing, was not at all complemented by the weed growth at the base of the wall on the opposite side.

The verges were well cut back and in accordance with what is recommended.

The entrance into the village from the Balloughter Estate was acceptable but the galvanized shed/barn is very visible as one enters should be painted.

General Impression:

Rathcabbin is making a good effort to progress in the competition and the Committee can feel pleased with what has been achieved to date.

Unfortunately the day of adjudication proved to be one associated with the true Irish summer - bright periods and longer downpours.

Keep up the good work.