

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathanna**

Ref: **262**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **219**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	38	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	219	212

Overall Developmental Approach:

Rathanna Community Group seem to have the support of a very committed community but a decided lack of sponsorship! Therefore the high levels of work achieved are all the more commendable - well done to all concerned! Hopefully you can construct a network of sponsorship systems in the not too distant future. Rathanna is now in its third year of entering the competition and has done extremely well in this short time! Many thanks for your map which was most clear and useful on adjudication day. Do consider putting together a three to five year work programme for next year's entry into the competition. This document will help you clarify the main areas in which to concentrate your efforts and help you clearly chart your progress as the years go by.

The Built Environment:

Major building work was ongoing to the Hall on adjudication day and hopefully its completion will be of benefit to the whole community. The attractive stone church and marvellous surrounds were admired. Commercial premises such as Osbourne's and Coady's looked well - the former with its attractive traditional shopfront and the latter with its attractive adjacent curved roofed outbuilding - this should be re-whitewashed before next year's competition and its traditional red roof repainted.

Landscaping:

Try to resist the temptation to "gild the lily" by over elaborate floral displays. Try to confine your planting to that of a more permanent variety which will give you colour year round and tree planting which will be of benefit to generations to come. The attractive planting to front of car park was admired and the hedging behind should be magnificent in the years to come. The new stone street furniture was admired, particularly the quirky saxophonist on the wall of the Hall and the dogs in amongst the geraniums! More granite benches were admired in the smaller car parking area and more seemed to be ready to be put in place. The marvellous rose tree in the church grounds was admired and tubs filled with flowers throughout the village looked well. The attractive planting on Killealy Road was admired as were the displays of pansies at the Sli na Slainte directional posts. Indeed the village was a blaze with colour throughout!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The bird feeding tables at the church car park were admired, as was the most attractive wildlife board in the church grounds which depicted a realistic scene of the types of wildlife to be seen in the locality. The ash trees planted on the Borris side of the village should be a marvellous asset to the village in years to come. The adjudicator looks forward to seeing your wildlife area filled with riverine plants by the local riverside in future years.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your reaching the semi-finals of the County Carlow Litter League. This has evidently paid dividends as there was very little evidence of litter on adjudication day.

Tidiness:

A ditch appeared to need re-instatement on the Killealy side of the village as a number of loose stones were evident to the road surface. The recycling area looked clean and neat - do consider screening it by means of hedging, fencing or even stone walling for next year's competition, as this will help to blend it more effectively into its environment with the objective of entering it into consideration for the recycling areas award next year.

Residential Areas:

Housing throughout the village and along approach roads generally looked well, of particular note being an attractive house and garden angled to the road on the Killealy side of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Rathanna is fortunate in its attractive approaches to village along mountain roads and over charming stone bridges. The Killealy Road was greatly admired with its magnificent displays of foxgloves in the hedgerows and attractive traditional gates. Stone walls with planting atop were also admired, although the road itself appeared somewhat overgrown. Do try to achieve a natural appearance to your approach roads while avoiding the temptation to over manicure them. The Borris Road looked well and was to a better standard with the narrow portions of grass verges there being well maintained. New hedging was noted with blackthorn above and the stone bridge very clean and neat, although this adjudicator felt that perhaps the hanging baskets and window boxes were somewhat superfluous. Some potholes were evident in the road surface and hopefully Carlow County Council will rectify this in the not too distant future.

General Impression:

Rathanna is fortunate in its manificent location in an area of natural beauty of the Blackstairs Mountains. It continues to perform extremely well in the competition particularly given the fact that it's relatively new to it!

Second Round Adjudication: