

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ruan**

Ref: **351**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **218**

Category: **A**

Date: **09/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	31
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	26
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	218	206

Overall Developmental Approach:

The detailed five year plan submitted with your entry form and map is very concise and indicates your pathway for the next five years. As with any plan some thing may not always work out as you anticipated but at the end of year, the plan should be monitored and any adjustments made for the following year. Much work has been undertaken in the village to-date. We note that you are part of the Mid Clare Walk Way and no doubt walkers enjoying this amenity appreciate the work that has been undertaken in Ruan. We would also suggest that you consider (If you have not already done so) entering other competitions such as National Spring Clean Week, (run by An Taisce); Green Schools; Golden Mile; IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter); Anti Litter League; Pride of Place (all-Ireland competition); LEADER Environmental Initiatives and County Council Competitions, as appropriate.

The Built Environment:

The built environment in Ruan is of rather of a mixed standard. A number of premises such as the School and Church are very well presented as indeed is Murty Kelly's Public House. However, the Dalcassian Bar, Shop and Filling Station needs some work undertaken as previously mentioned. It was noted that Fas were working on the old National School 1833 – 1977 and the erection of a

plaque to Mairtin O'Ceallaigh who was a founder member of Conradh na Gaelige marks part of the heritage of Ruan. The derelict building opposite Purcell's Pub is still very much an eyesore and we are glad to note that negotiations are ongoing in respect of this property. Hopefully this problem will be resolved in the near future. Good stone walls were noted around the village. An effort should be made to ensure that ivy and brambles do not take over these in the future.

Landscaping:

As you mention in your entry form, the canopy of trees as you enter the village from Ennis is impressive. Tree planting throughout the village in general will leave a future legacy for generations to come. The Moinin Park was well maintained and the sculpture here is a feature of this amenity. On the approach roads occasional planting has been undertaken in a very tasteful manner, especially at the Bring Bank site. Other areas noted were at Crusheen Crossroads and on the Ennis approach the extensive Rose of Sharon flower bed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is obviously commitment to wildlife from the residents of Ruan and a donkey sanctuary was noted opposite Murty Kelly's together with a deer farm on the Raisc approach. Bird boxes were evident in the school grounds and we note that there is a birdwatch shelter to the west of the village at the Raisc wildlife pond.

Litter Control:

There was no litter to be seen around the village and the new litter bins were noted in strategic positions. This is commendable and no doubt you involve the school in your efforts.

Tidiness:

The village was mostly looking neat and tidy and again we would mention the Bring Bank in this connection. Kerbs were weed free and most areas tidy except for an area opposite Murty Kelly's Pub which has been mentioned previously.

Residential Areas:

As with other villages there are a considerable amount of residential properties being built at present in Ruan. It would be essential that these new residents be made feel welcome to the village and also to be asked to assist you with your efforts in regard to Tidy Towns. The new housing estates in Ruan are appropriate to a rural village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces and signage were quite good throughout Ruan and hedges trimmed back on the approach roads.

General Impression:

Ruan continues to improve and we look forward to seeing the implementation of your five year plan in the years ahead.

