

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathbarry**

Ref: **133**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **273**

Category: **A**

Date: **09/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	26
Litter Control	40	38	38
Tidiness	20	18	17
Residential Areas	30	24	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	36
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	273	270

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. The standard of excellence which has been achieved for Rathbarry over the last few years continues through to 2005. Thank you for your submission and participation in the competition and congratulations on this your 25th anniversary of your involvement in the National Tidy Towns Competition. No doubt the celebrations in April were a special joy and the community has every right to be proud of itself. Congratulations on attaining the silver medal in 2004. Your close cooperation with Cork County Council, Coilte and other agencies have been effective. We wish you every success in attaining Leader funding for stonewall preservation and conservation and it is particularly satisfying to note that you have sourced the necessary expertise to complete this project; if it is as successful as your last substantial project which was the restoration of the Sprigging School in 2000 then we have something very important to look forward to over the next few years.

The Built Environment:

Buildings within Rathbarry are presented to the highest standard. The Post Office and adjoining premises were beautifully presented and nicely complimented by the Cafe, Toilet and Cottage Museum; O Donovan's Public House looked well also. The Church was especially admired for its wonderful grounds including the graveyard. Your efforts to ensure that the ethos of the Tidy Towns permeates the entire village has been successful; clearly there is a strong community spirit amongst property owners and it is good to note that the Tidy Towns Committee is there with advice and

practical help when appropriate.

Landscaping:

Landscaping in the village centre at the crossroads with its architect designed fingerposts which must be unique in the country is superb and is complemented wonderfully by the amenity area to the Post Office and the adjoining buildings together with the public garden at the top of the Roscarberry road with its picnic tables. Planting inside the wall of the graveyard was excellent in presentation also and the environs of the Sprigging School were faultless and admired for their stands of Montebretia, neatly maintained grass verges and stands of mature trees in Castlefreak woods. The village has been considered for the landscape award.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note from your submission that development at Castlefreak wood which was entirely Sitka Spruce is now 60% mixed species and only 40% Spruce and is being professionally managed; this was an ambitious undertaking and you have achieved amazing results. The refurbishment of the wildlife panels have been noted and the provision of bird nesting boxes is commendable. Outbreaks of Montebretia in verges on the entrance from the Ardfield road were appreciated. You are to be congratulated on the work accomplished on the Long Strand and the Rathbarry Junior Tidy Towns team deserve a hearty commendation.

Litter Control:

It is good to note Rathbarry's participation in local anti-litter competitions and your success in the Muintir na Tire Competition. Again we are indebted to the Rathbarry junior Tidy Towns team for their activities and regular litter patrols. The village was litter free on the day of adjudication which has been the norm for the past few years. Do keep us abreast of all your litter control activities and particularly your overall litter management strategy. Congratulations on your success in Cork County Councils Inter-Village Competition also.

Tidiness:

A derelict remains behind a primrose and peach coloured dwelling was slightly problematic and possibly the only problem under this heading. The village was weed free along bridges, base of walls, buildings and for long stretches of approach roads. Have you considered the provision of a recycling point?

Residential Areas:

Residential properties adjoining the Post Office in the village centre have achieved a standard of excellence in their presentation; new stone dwellings on the Roscarberry road were similarly well presented. Some new developments have not yet had their gardens developed but this is understandable at this stage. No doubt this will be addressed for next years competition. Hopefully the committee will be successful in integrating new residents into the social life of Rathbarry and bringing new people aboard the Tidy Towns initiative.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your new namesigns are beautiful and we note from your submission that these have been designed by the architects department in Cork County Council. The village logo is a nice feature on these signs. Well done! all are appropriately placed. Entrances to Rathbarry from approach roads are marked by neat grass verges, wonderful hedgerow and in some instances outbreaks of wildflower. We note from your submission your plans for the refurbishment of stonewalls along approach roads and anticipate developments in this area over the next few years. The bridge and stretches of stone wall in the village centre were well presented with little or no weed growth or any other forms of

untidiness. Both the carpark in the village centre and the church carpark looked neat. Congratulations on the completion of the new bridge near the church. This enhances the visual and recreational amenity status of Rathbarry yet further.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Rathbarry is one where a standard of excellence is the norm. The village is not only strong in visual amenity but has a host of recreational amenity facilities also. Well done!

Second Round Adjudication:

Rathbarry continues to maintain an exceptional standard of care and attention to the finest detail in the village. This is a wonderful village and represents all the best that a community can bring together with a marvellous community spirit. So many facilities are offered and there is a generous atmosphere with the museum and Sprigging School open and unattended and the array of interesting farm implements openly on display. The Montbretia, ferns and well cared for grass verges on surrounding roads are a delight and the timber rails along the roadsides give a very pleasant appearance. A planning permission notice was observed which might be the resolution of the ruined building above the bridge.