

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathangan**

Ref: **93**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **252**

Category: **C**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	29	28
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	252	248

Overall Developmental Approach:

The submissions made with the entry form show a great level of commitment and activity within the community in Rathangan. The comprehensive information gives a very good insight into the developments and the involvement of so many people in the village. The schools involvement is very encouraging as it is important to pass on civic pride and appreciation of the natural environment. There is no better way to succeed in this than by being involved in the village's developments. The photographs and the poetry book of the local poet William Byrne make very interesting viewing.

The Built Environment:

There is a very high standard of buildings presentation in the village. The well-painted business premises stand out clearly and show a very positive message. The new pedestrian bridge (as yet not open) is an interesting structure and seems particularly elaborate for the function it provides. The church stands out very clearly in its surrounds. The adjacent Noone building, and the building alongside this both look extremely well presented. A resolution for the Drummonds complex of buildings will hopefully arrive soon. There are still a few buildings along the streets requiring attention to décor, which stand out more as the remainder look so well. The building on New Street where planning permission is being sought for development was noted. The paved area at the village centre looks well and the bollards and pump form an attractive feature

Landscaping:

Trees form a very important aspect of the village of Rathangan. It is wonderful to have large mature trees within the village – as for example the two large copper beech trees by the Noone buildings and the large trees by the Girls Primary School and along the riverside at the same road. The mature trees at the Ard Ratha are also very significant. The landscaping at the post primary school is most attractive and very well maintained. Tannery park is a marvelous facility and the mown grass toe path along the ridge allows for appreciation of the natural areas and is welcome. Gaps in the wire indicate the desire and need for access to the housing estate. Through the town the colourful displays of summer plants give a sparkle of colour to the streets and look very well. Entrances to the main housing estates provide further opportunity for landscape contribution. The open greens of many estates are well planted with trees and the grass care is very good. The memorials to Maura Laverty and William Byrne are well presented with surrounding landscape. The involvement of residents in their housing estates plays a very significant part in the overall landscape of the village and great credit is due to homeowners who look after their properties, gardens and surrounds. The landscaping at Conlons garage is very attractive. Both school gardens are looking very well. The ongoing tree-planting programme is very impressive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river and canal walks offer a wonderful opportunity for wildlife observation and appreciation. During a walk by the river a kingfisher was spotted as well as a number of other birds. The waterside walk along the road to the Church is attractive and it is a great advantage to be able to walk in by the Maura Laverty memorial along to the bridge and further along the canal without having to walk on the roadways. Tannery park provides a wonderful wildlife observation place. The phototropic record of wildlife is a good idea.

Litter Control:

Litter control systems are admirable and the involvement with the schools is a very positive idea. The recycling projects are also very good and it is great that litter and recycling are taken so seriously. The campaigns and cleanups are very useful approaches. The streets are very clean except for one area leading to the bridge by Tannery Park. The recycled bins by the church are neat and tidy.

Tidiness:

There is a very good level of tidiness through the village. The Drummonds buildings and a derelict house in the main street are a source of disappointment as is the buildings opposite Ard Ratha. The site for sale on approach to the bridge from the village is very untidy. There are some shops displaying large amounts of produce outside on the footpaths – this is not the most attractive sight and it may be hazardous to pedestrians

Residential Areas:

The large number of residential estates is looking in good condition – as stated above the work of residents contributes greatly. It is important to be watchful at building sites to ensure that the sites are fully reinstated when developers complete their work – a watchful eye on planning permission applications is also an important issue for tidy towns committees. There are a number of residences along the streets of the village – this is good as it retains a community spirit within the village itself.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are generally good, there are a number of places where the road is broken and patchy and needs attention. This is especially so in the vicinity of Annsboro. Verges and roadside areas by the Merrimack and industrial areas along Lock Road need remedial attention. The entrance to the Community centre has a very rough surface. Approach roads are attractive and on leaving the

village quickly return to the attractive rural roadside quality

General Impression:

Rathangan is a very attractive village to visit with much to offer for residents and visitors. The village has also has much to offer other villages by its example.

Second Round Adjudication:

At either end of the town there are two unfortunate areas which detract considerably from the otherwise excellent overall impression: one at Annesboro – which may not be within the town area and so has not affected the marking – where there is a scruffy and littered site (apparently owned by the County Council!), unkempt verges by the handsome bridge, and astonishingly poor road surfaces. From here along the canal-bank all is neatness while allowing for the natural growth of reeds, flags, meadowsweet and other wild plants. Then comes the stylish new footbridge which is also a huge improvement in regard to the safety of pedestrians – next year perhaps it will be adorned with a few judiciously placed patio plants! Next comes the other unfortunate site, the neglected industrial buildings and the adjacent vacant yard; however, it is understood that that the mill has been bought so perhaps we may look forward to its rehabilitation by the purchaser for some interesting new purpose. The town itself, with its attractive interconnecting urban spaces and greens, was looking lovely in mid-August: but do press for the removal of unsightly poles and wires and their replacement by lamp standards of superior design, as has been done to great effect elsewhere. A photograph of the Maura Laverty memorial and flowerbeds was taken and sent to her family abroad. A copy of William A Byrne's 'A Light on the Broom' was much appreciated. Best wishes for your endeavours and for your continued success.