

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathcabbin**

Ref: **378**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **194**

Category: **A**

Date: **05/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	194	191

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your three year Development Plan. It states clearly what you have achieved to date, and what has yet to be done. However, as you are aware yourselves, it is now complete and you will therefore need to draw up a new document, to cover the next number of years. This can be easily achieved by means of reviewing the previous document, and combining this with the information contained in the Tidy Towns reports for the last number of years. You would appear to have a strong working group in terms of the Lorrha and Dorrha Community Council and this must be of great benefit in your work. It is a little confusing from your documentation whether this is your first year of entry to the competition as this organisation, as this appears to have been the situation last year, on reading your 2004 Adjudication Report? We nevertheless wish you all the best with your future work. You should re-write your submissions each year-this one appeared to have been written some years ago as it mentioned Foot and Mouth restrictions! As mentioned last year, do consider the possibility of forming a number of sub-committees to simplify your work.

The Built Environment:

As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, the village itself is quite small and therefore any problem area is all the more apparent. The Last Chance Saloon looked well and was busy on the day. Your plans in relation to co-ordinate your colour schemes for elements such as as gates and other items of street furniture is commendable. The circular modern church is a fine asset for the village to have at its heart and looked as well maintained as ever on the day, with attractive landscaping

surrounding it. The school and hall looked well. As you are aware yourselves, dereliction and neglect are a problem and will need to be tackled on an ongoing basis, which is an issue you appear to be taking on board. Don't neglect outbuildings when considering overall presentation of this category of the competition.

Landscaping:

As identified by yourselves in your application, there is a need for additional planting in the village. Don't feel disheartened, as progress will take time but further planning is needed in order to organise a comprehensive strategy for tackling this issue. Your ideas in relation to a cohesive colour scheme is an interesting one and the planting of trees along the main street is a fine one. The co-operation of local farmers in this regard is commendable. The obvious areas for development under this category of the competition are the entrances to the village, in terms of the approach roads. There is also scope for a number of incidental landscaped spaces along the main street. The planting at the church was mentioned in last year's report as requiring thinning out, and this did not seem to have taken place. This area looked well nonetheless, and, due to the low level of landscaping throughout the rest of the village, shines out like a beacon, welcoming a closer look! A mature overhanging tree appeared to have been felled to the grassy bank by the car park area in this location-was it sick or damaged?

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans for erecting nesting boxes in derelict buildings was mentioned in last year's report - have you developed this further? The provision of berry producing trees is a sensible proposal, as is the aspiration to try to maintain the approach roads in as natural a manner as possible. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for further ideas for projects in this category of the competition. Other centres have found it useful to assign a member of the committee to liaise with local school teachers in order to work on joint projects with the local schoolchildren. These could take the form of the building and erection of feeding tables, bat boxes, nesting boxes, the sowing of wild-flower gardens, the provision of composting areas etc.

Litter Control:

The provision of litter bins in the village is a commendable initiative, as is participation in the National Spring Clean Week. Again it is unclear from your submission whether you played a part in it this year? The aspiration to involve the local schoolchildren is a fine one, as an awareness of our environment can never start too early! Litter control, on the day could have been better, with a light scattering evident along the main street. Unfortunately, even one or two outbreaks are all the more apparent in a village of Rathcabbin's size.

Tidiness:

As mentioned previously, dereliction and neglect is a problem, which, although it is being tackled, will need continuous vigilance for a number of years to come. In some centres, the committees ask permission from the owners of derelict premises for permission to paint up these properties, which makes a real difference in terms of their appearance. Elsewhere in the report, the issue of outbuildings has been mentioned.

Residential Areas:

Houses, both in the village centre and along approach roads looked well cared for on the day with attractive gardens to a number. The houses of the Ballyoughter estate were generally well presented. Do ensure that any new housing is completed in a style that is suitable for a traditional Irish village, using appropriate finishes in terms of materials and landscaping.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads to the village were rather inconsistent on the day, as the aspiration to maintain a natural appearance was not quite realised! Verges were a somewhat overgrown in places. Weed control, boundaries, signage and items of street furniture are all items to be considered under this category of the competition.

General Impression:

Rathcabbin is an interesting and unique village which continues to make steady progress in the competition. It was a number of years since this adjudicator had the pleasure of visiting the village and it was a pleasure to see it again. Do ensure that you formulate a new work programme for next year's competition!